

# Child poverty in Germany and the EU: a comparison of monetary and non-monetary indicators<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This brief was written by UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, 2025

## Key highlights

- Despite Germany's strong overall economic performance, 23% of children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion—placing the country in the bottom third in Europe—with particularly poor outcomes in material deprivation and low work intensity.
- After a steady decline between 2015–2019, the at risk of poverty or social exclusion rates (AROPE) rank steadily above the EU average in the period 2021–2024.
- Despite education being typically regarded as a strong protective factor against poverty, children from highly educated households have higher AROPE rates than the EU average.
- Overall, Germany's position in international comparisons shows that the limited financial budgets of families result in real deprivation for children and their everyday lives.
- Nearly one in three people (31.9%) cannot handle unexpected expenses, and many households experience difficulties with socially normative costs, such as holidays (20.5%) and furniture replacement (15.1%).
- 11% of households cannot afford a protein-rich meal every other day, while 12.4% lack access to regular leisure activities and 8.9% cannot participate in monthly social gatherings.
- Despite a low share (4%) of people lacking a personal computer, Germany ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> overall compared to most EU countries.
- Germany - even if it is not the worst performer overall - consistently ranks in the lower third of its neighboring countries across several key indicators of child material deprivation—particularly in financial resilience, digital access, nutrition, and social participation—suggesting widespread and multidimensional vulnerabilities.

## 1. Introduction

Child poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue that extends beyond a lack of income. As Peter Townsend (1979) noted, poverty entails being excluded from a minimally acceptable standard of living due to insufficient resources. Building on this idea, other scholars have highlighted the importance of identifying non-monetary forms of deprivation—ranging from inadequate nutrition and housing to limited access to learning, digital connectivity, and leisure (Main and Bradshaw, 2012; Guio et al. 2018).

UNICEF and the EU have embraced this perspective, recognizing that children experience poverty in unique ways. Household income alone often fails to reflect their well-being. As a result, multidimensional, non-monetary approaches have gained prominence, helping to identify not only who is poor but also how children are deprived (Gordon et al. 2003)

This shift has been essential for designing more targeted and effective interventions. Research on material deprivation shows strong links between unmet needs and negative outcomes in areas like health, education, and psychosocial development, underscoring the need for coordinated action across sectors such as social protection, education, housing, nutrition, and digital inclusion (Rees, 2019; UNICEF, 2023).

Non-monetary indicators also allow policymakers to treat child poverty as a standalone priority rather than a by-product of household economic status. This is consistent with global commitments, including Sustainable Development Goal 1.2, which aims to reduce child poverty in all its forms.

While many Eurostat indicators—such as the inability to heat the home, afford protein-rich meals, access the internet, or participate in social activities—are measured at the household level, they remain crucial for understanding children's living conditions. Since children depend on their household environment, these indicators represent meaningful proxies for assessing deprivation. When interpreted through a child-centred lens, including in child-specific SMSD (Severe Material and Social Deprivation) measures, they help pinpoint the most pressing areas of need and how these differ across countries and populations.

This brief uses EUROSTAT data<sup>2</sup> to highlight strengths and weaknesses of Germany's performance in child poverty and material deprivation with that of the EU27 + Switzerland and Norway (EU27+2, from now on) and a restricted group of 9 neighbouring countries (Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Poland, EU10

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<sup>2</sup> Data access and extraction were performed in April 2025. Some tables were updated in June 2025 to incorporate newly available data.

from now on). The analysis focuses on the key indicators commonly employed across the EU to measure child poverty (ie. At-risk-of poverty or social exclusion rates (AROPE), Severe Material and Social Deprivation (SMSD) and Material Deprivation (MD)) providing insights to inform targeted policies through the identification of key areas for investments intervention.

The picture of child poverty and material deprivation in Germany reveals at least two facts. Germany, despite its economic strength, is falling behind its neighbors in protecting children from poverty and social exclusion. Other countries in the region—some with fewer resources—are achieving better outcomes. Second, some indicators are revealing new challenges for Germany, such as households limited financial budgets resulting in real deprivation for children and their everyday lives.

## 2. Child poverty in Germany and EU27+2 countries

In the European context, several key indicators are used to measure poverty and social exclusion, each capturing different dimensions of deprivation. The **AROPE** is the main metric used in the EU to assess “child poverty and social exclusion” and is the indicator which the EU aims to reduce child poverty by 5 million by 2030 as one of its 2030 targets.

The AROPE is the total number of children aged 0-17 who meet at least one of the three criteria: a) are At Risk Of Poverty (monetary indicator, **AROP**), b) experience severe material and social deprivation (non-monetary indicator, **SMSD**)<sup>3</sup>, or c) live in a household with very low-work intensity (**VLWI**). The AROPE rate tracks the EU 2030 goal on reducing poverty and social exclusion and monitors the poverty reduction target in the EU 2020 Strategy.

- Currently, 23% of children in Germany are at risk of poverty or social exclusion (see table A1 in Appendix) which ranks the country 21<sup>th</sup> among European countries (EU27 + 2) where AROPE ranges from 12% in Slovenia to 35% in Bulgaria (Table 1, A1).
- If we take a closer look at the disaggregation of the AROPE in Germany in its three components (Table 1), it emerges that the country is ranking in the middle in the AROP

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<sup>3</sup> The material and social deprivation rate is an indicator in EU-SILC that expresses the inability to afford some items considered by most people to be desirable or even necessary to lead an adequate life. The indicator distinguishes between individuals who cannot afford a certain good or service, and those who do not have this good or service for another reason, e.g. because they do not want or do not need it. The full list of 13 items consists of 7 items at household level and 6 items at individual level. Severe material and social deprivation rate is defined as the enforced inability to pay for at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items. See Eurostat: Statistics explained, 'Severe Material and Social Deprivation Rate', [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe\\_material\\_and\\_social\\_deprivation\\_rate\\_\(SMSD\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe_material_and_social_deprivation_rate_(SMSD)).

dimension (13<sup>th</sup>), low in the SMSD (20<sup>th</sup>) and that a significant share of households fall into the category of low work intensity (the country ranks 29<sup>th</sup>)<sup>4</sup>.

- Despite Germany having the 6th highest employment activity rate in the EU (81.1% which is well above the EU average), low unemployment and underemployment rates, it shows a higher-than-average proportion of people not seeking work.

Table 1 – Countries ranking on the percentage of children under 18 years at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) and subdomains, 2024 or latest.

ISO2	At-risk-of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE)	At-risk-of Poverty (AROP)	Severe Material and Social Deprivation (SMSD)	Very Low Work Intensity (VLWI)
SI	1	2	2	1
CY	2	5	11	2
CZ	3	8	12	18
NL	4	7	12	18
DK	5	1	14	16
NO	6	4	6	17
PL	7	6	3	5
EE	8	9	6	6
FI	9	3	5	24
LV	10	14	9	11
HR	11	18	1	4
BE	12	11	22	26
IE	13	12	21	25
PT	14	15	15	10
AT	15	16	15	15
SE	15	17	6	23
HU	17	10	26	12
CH	18	20	9	7
SK	19	21	24	13
LT	20	19	18	21
DE	21	13	20	29
LU	22	25	4	3
MT	23	25	15	7
FR	24	22	23	26
IT	25	24	19	21
GR	26	23	27	7
RO	27	27	29	14
ES	28	29	25	20
BG	29	28	28	28

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living\\_conditions\\_in\\_Europe\\_-\\_work\\_intensity&oldid=664596#Low\\_work\\_intensity](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_work_intensity&oldid=664596#Low_work_intensity)

Note: Children (aged less than 18) At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion - EU2030 target [tepsr\_lm412]; At-risk-of-poverty rate by age group - EU-SILC survey [tessi012]; Severe material and social deprivation rate by age group and sex [sdg\_01\_31]; Children (aged less than 18) living in households with very low work intensity by sex [tepsr\_spi130].

## AROPE trends

However, once we look at a pre-Covid (2015-2019) and post-Covid trends (2021-2024), it turns out that Germany experienced two different trends marked by a break in the series between 2019-2020<sup>5</sup>, around the break point the proportion of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion jumped by almost a half from 15% to 22%. We decided to restrict the trends analysis within (and not across) the two time periods<sup>6</sup>.

Pre- and post- break trends show the following two key highlights:

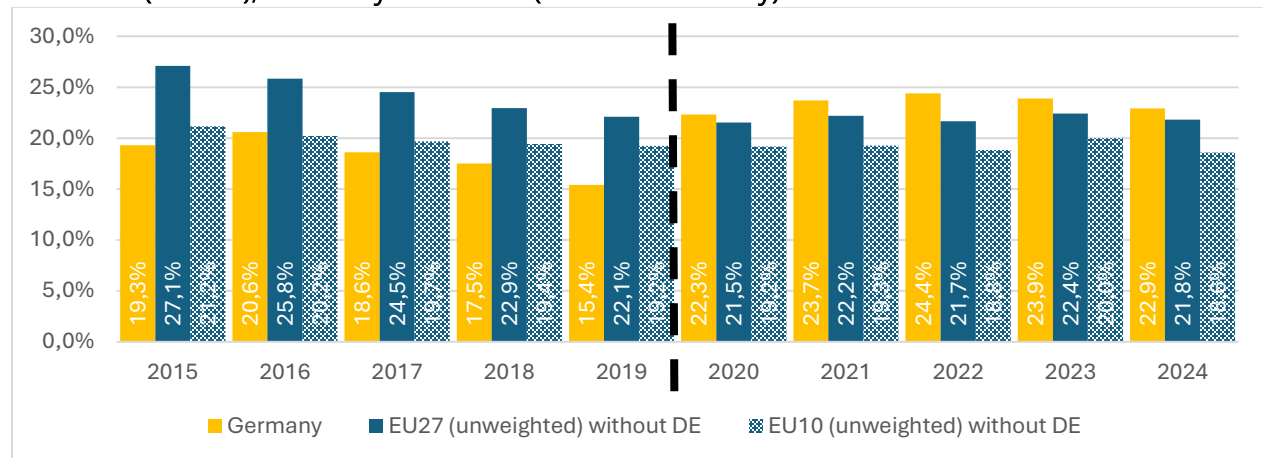
- A steady decline of about 4 pp between 2015 and 2019 is followed by an upward increase (+1.6 pp change) between 2020 and 2023.
- AROPE rates for Germany are below the EU27 average and the EU10 average before the break and slightly above the EU27 after the break.
- While Germany had matched or outperformed the EU10 group in terms of AROPE levels prior to 2020, the situation reversed after 2020, with AROPE levels in Germany surpassing those observed in the EU10.

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<sup>5</sup> The break in the series is due to a statistical change in the sampling methodology which occurred in 2020. From the 2020 reference year onward, Germany's EU-SILC data have been collected as a subsample of the Mikrozensus as the new sampling and data collection framework.

<sup>6</sup> The change in the sampling methodology makes time series comparisons with earlier years methodologically inappropriate. In addition, pre-2020 data, collected through a separate EU-SILC survey, are subject to higher attrition, particularly among vulnerable groups, which may affect the reliability of longitudinal analyses. See: [Methodological Changes and its impact in 2020 - German Federal Statistical Office](#)

Figure 1 – Change in the percentage of children under 18 years at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE), Germany and EU27 (without Germany)



Note: Children (aged less than 18) At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion - EU2030 target [tepsr\_lm412]; The unweighted mean represents the simple arithmetic average of country-level rates, where each country contributes equally to the calculation regardless of its population size. Data updated in June 2025.

However aggregate trends can mask important disparities between social groups.

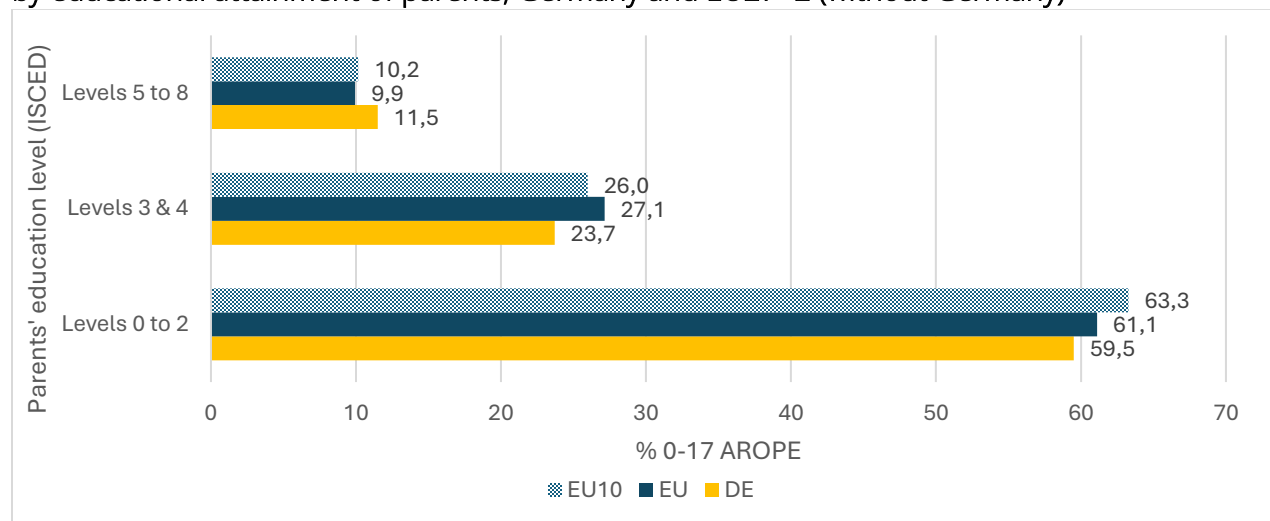
Disaggregating AROPE data by parental education allows us to identify vulnerable subgroups of children who remain at a persistently high risk of poverty or social exclusion, even when overall rates appear stable or declining.

Figure 2 highlights the educational inequalities underlying the 2024 figures:

- Children whose parents have at most lower secondary education (ISCED levels 0–2) face significantly higher AROPE risks in Germany compared to the other ISCED levels. The outcomes for Germany are below both the EU and EU10 averages.
- For children of parents with less than tertiary education (ISCED levels 3–4), the AROPE rate stands at 23.7%, still below in comparison to broader EU benchmarks.
- Germany is doing worse with respect to the EU among children of parents with some tertiary education (ISCED levels 5–8). In this case the AROPE rate reaches 11.5%, slightly above both the EU27+2 average (9.9%) and the EU10 average (10.2%).

When children from highly educated households face higher-than-average AROPE rates, it may point to broader structural or social vulnerabilities—such as rising living costs, unstable labor market conditions, or gaps in family support policies. Educational attainment alone is no longer sufficient to shield families from poverty risks.

Figure 2 – Percentage of children under 18 years at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) by educational attainment of parents, Germany and EU27+2 (without Germany)



Note: Data refers to At-risk-of poverty and social exclusion rate for children by educational attainment level of their parents (population aged 0 to 17 years) [tepsr\_lm411]. Data for EU27+2 and EU10 is represented as the unweighted average across the EU countries and the 9 neighbours, respectively, without Germany. Countries marked with a "u" in 2024 (ie. CY, HR, FI) in at least one of the three indicators are excluded from the calculation. Education levels refer to the ISCED classification. Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2); Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4); Tertiary education (levels 5-8)

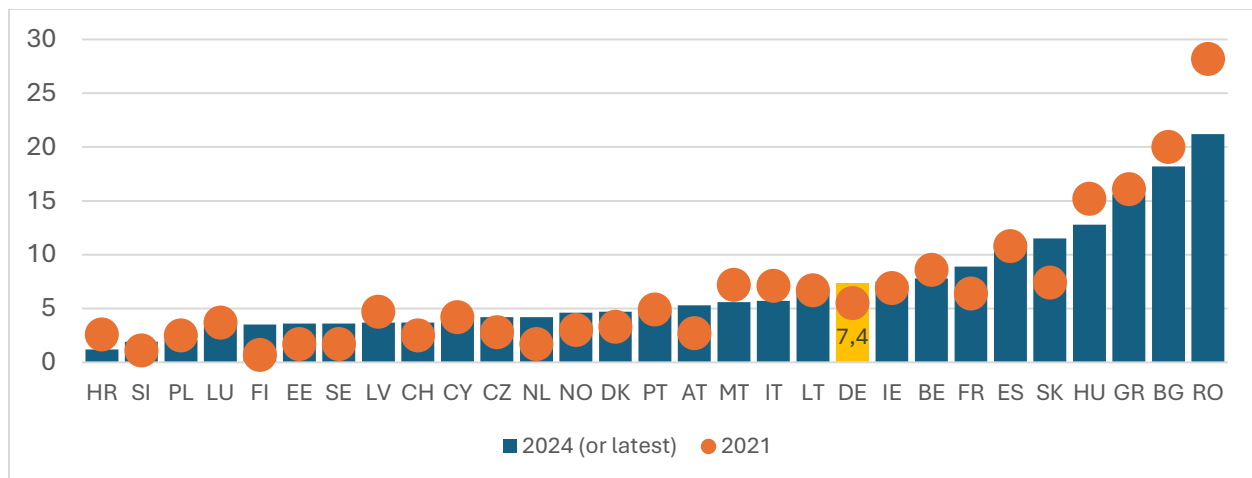
## Severe material and social deprivation trends

Between 2020 and 2024, Germany saw also a sharp increase in the share of children living in severe material and social deprivation, rising from 5.5% to 7.4% (+1.9 pp) (Figure 3).

While countries like Romania (–7 pp) or Bulgaria (–1.8 pp) saw improvements, others (including Finland and Slovakia) saw their rates increase by more than 2pp. Germany's current level is now higher than in most Northern and Central European countries.

Figure 3 - Percent of children 0-17 in severe material and social deprivation households (2021-2024)





Source: EUROSTAT. Severe material and social deprivation rate by age group and sex [sdg\_01\_31]. Data accessed in April 2025.

### 3. Severe material and social deprivation in Germany

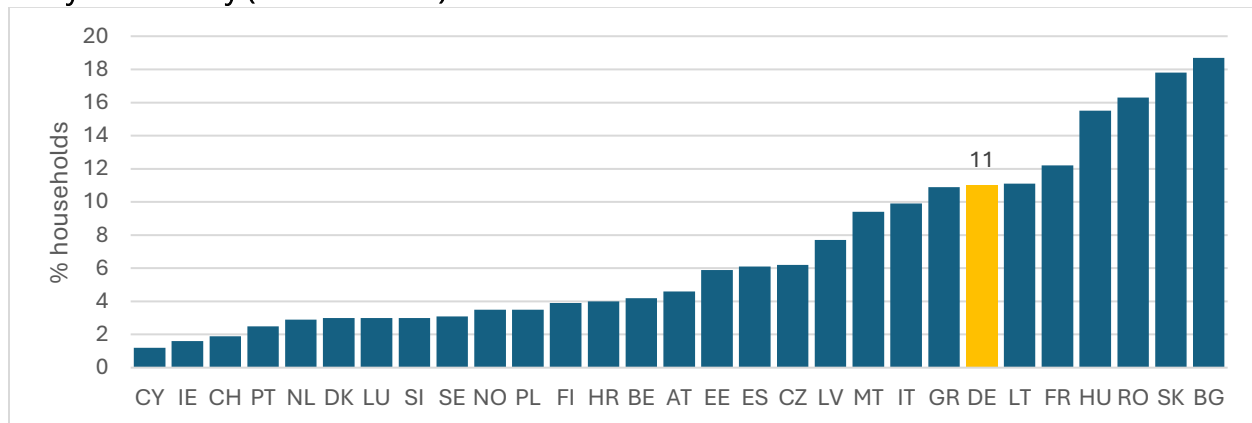
This section examines the components of the Severe Material and Social Deprivation indicator to provide a clearer understanding of the specific domains in which households face constraints<sup>7</sup>:

- One of the key challenges lies in the limited financial coping among households. With 31.9% of the population unable to meet unexpected financial expenses, the country ranks 19th, suggesting that nearly one in three individuals lacks the economic buffer needed to manage extra costs.
- Households struggle to afford expenses that are non-essential but a part of social norms in a given country: 20.5% report being unable to afford a one-week annual holiday, and 15.1% are unable to replace worn-out furniture—placing the country 11th and 12th, respectively, on these indicators.
- Forms of social deprivation are also emerging as concerning areas: 12.4% of individuals cannot regularly engage in leisure activities (ranking 21st), and 8.9% are unable to afford monthly social gatherings (ranking 22nd out of 29 countries).
- Third, the country shows poor performance in access to a protein-rich meal at least every other day (23rd in the ranking). In 2024, around 11% of the population could not eat a balanced meal consisting of meat, fish, or a vegetarian equivalent on alternate days (Figure 4).

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<sup>7</sup> The full list of 13 items that define Severe Material and Social Deprivation consists of 7 items at household level: capacity to face unexpected expenses, capacity to afford paying for one week annual holiday away from home, capacity to being confronted with payment arrears (on mortgage or rental payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments), Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day, Ability to keep home adequately warm, Have access to a car for personal use, Replacing worn-out furniture; and 6 items at individual level: Having internet connection, Replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones, Having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes), Spending a small amount of money each week on him/herself, Having regular leisure activities, Getting together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month. See Eurostat: Statistics explained, 'Severe Material and Social Deprivation Rate', [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe\\_material\\_and\\_social\\_deprivation\\_rate\\_\(SMSD\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe_material_and_social_deprivation_rate_(SMSD)).

Figure 4 – People unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day (2024 or latest)



Source: Eurostat, ilc\_mdcs03 indicator. Data accessed in April 2025.

Importantly, while the absolute value of deprivation in digital access (2.5% without home internet) appears low, the relative ranking (26th out of 29) indicates that the country lags behind most peers in ensuring universal access to digital infrastructure.

On the other hand, access to durable goods is also relatively widespread, with low deprivation rates reported for car ownership (6.3%) and the ability to replace worn-out clothing (6.9%), both below the levels observed in about half of the sampled countries.

Table 2 – Germany's relative rank by SMSD component among the EU27+2 countries

<i>SMSD items</i>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Value (%)</b>	<b>Min (%)</b>	<b>Max (%)</b>
Cannot face payment arrears	8	6.9	3.4	47.3
Cannot face unexpected expenses	19	31.9	15.9	45.6
Cannot afford one week annual holiday away from home	11	20.5	8.7	58.6
Cannot afford a meal with proteins	23	11	1.2	18.7
Cannot keep home adequately warm	16	6.2	0.5	20
Cannot replace worn-out furniture	12	15.1	5.8	52.6
Have access to a car/van for personal use	18	6.3	1.6	15.6
Cannot replace worn-out clothes by some new	17	6.9	2.1	21.5
... Internet connection for personal use at home	26	2.5	0.2	7.6
... Regularly participate in a leisure activity	21	12.4	2.4	26.9
...Get-together with friends or family (relatives) for a drink or meal at least once a month	22	8.9	1.2	18
...Spend a small amount of money each week on themselves	18	10	1.8	34.7
...Having two pairs of properly fitting shoes	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: Rank relative to the EU27+2 countries, min and max values refer to the minimum and maximum within the EU27+2 sample.

Source: EUROSTAT, accessed in April 2025

## 4. Material deprivation beyond AROPE and SMSD in Germany

In addition to the AROPE indicator and its component on severe material and social deprivation, other measures provide a broader perspective on individuals' and households' living conditions. One such measure is the **material deprivation indicator**, which captures the enforced inability to afford at least three out of a list of nine items related to **economic strain and lack of durables**. Most of the indicators used for material deprivation are also included in the SMSD. Beyond economic strain and durables, Eurostat also collects information on deprivation in two additional dimensions: **housing conditions** and **environmental issues**<sup>8</sup>. To provide a more comprehensive overview of material living conditions, this section looks at economic strain, durables, housing, and environment: Germany performs moderately in 3 out of 4 domains and poorly on the environment (26<sup>th</sup>).

Table 3 – Germany's rank and level in key material deprivation dimensions and their subcomponents

Indicator	Rank	Value (%)	Min (%)	Max (%)
<i>Economic strain (one or more of the following 5 items)</i>	<b>13</b>	61	31.5	77.4
Economic strain (one or more of the following 5 items)*	<b>8</b>	6.9	3.4	47.3
Arrears on mortgage or rent, utility bills, hire purchase or loan payments*	<b>19</b>	31.9	15.9	45.6
Cannot face unexpected financial expenses*	<b>11</b>	20.5	8.7	58.6
Cannot afford one week annual holiday away from home*	<b>23</b>	11	1.2	18.7
Cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day*	<b>16</b>	6.2	0.5	20
<i>Durables deprivation (one or more of the following 6 items)</i>	<b>14</b>	93	71.7	95.9
Cannot afford a car*	<b>18</b>	6.3	1.6	15.6
... to buy some new clothes (not second-hand)*	<b>17</b>	6.9	2.1	21.5
... an internet connection*	<b>26</b>	2.5	0.2	7.6
... a computer	<b>23</b>	4	1.3	9.1
... a colour TV	<b>1</b>	0	0	1.4
... a washing machine	<b>1</b>	0	0	7
<i>Housing deprivation (one or more of the following 4 items)</i>	<b>13</b>	83.1	63.5	100

<sup>8</sup> Although these dimensions are presented alongside material deprivation indicators, they are not currently aggregated into a single composite measure. Nonetheless, they offer valuable insights into broader aspects of material living standards.

... No bath or shower in the dwelling	1	0	0	14.2
... Dwelling is not sufficiently bright	9	4	2.9	10.6
... Leaking roof, damp walls/floors/foundation or rot in window frames/floor	14	12	4.8	31.6
... No indoor flushing toilet for sole use of the household	1	0	0	15.4
<b><i>Environmental deprivation (one or more of the following 3 items)</i></b>	<b>26</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>100</b>
Crime, violence or vandalism in the area	24	13.1	1.4	20.9
Noise from neighbors or from the street	25	26.1	6.7	31.3
Pollution, grime or other environmental problems	28	25.2	4.2	34.7
<b><i>Housing deprivation in households with children 0–18</i></b>	<b>20</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>100</b>
No bath or shower in the dwelling (children 0–18)	1	0	0	14.6
Dwelling is not sufficiently bright (children 0–18)	8	3.9	1.6	11.7
Leaking roof, damp walls, or rot (children 0–18)	14	14.6	5	33
No indoor flushing toilet (children 0–18)	1	0	0	15.5

Note: \*dimensions also entering the SMSD indicator, data accessed in April 2025

The country ranks in the middle (14<sup>th</sup>) in the “Durables” material deprivation dimension across the EU27+2 countries, but there are still barriers to participation in digital learning and social inclusion. The number of individuals that cannot afford a personal computer is about 4%, quite low in absolute terms, but high in relative terms, compared to the other countries only six fare worse.

Germany performs well on access to fundamental amenities such as a washing machine, TV, and bathroom or toilet facilities, all ranked 1st. Structural housing deprivation indicators show comparatively strong results, with only a moderate concern about the quality of the dwelling. Finally, Germany ranks among the bottom four countries in all measured dimensions of environmental quality, including pollution, grime or other environmental problems (28<sup>th</sup>), neighborhood quality (25<sup>th</sup>), and exposure to crime (24<sup>th</sup>).

## 5. Germany's relative positioning within Central Europe

International comparisons may overlook contextual factors, as countries in the broader group can differ widely in terms of resources, institutions, or development levels. A focus on a subgroup of similar countries—based on geography, economic structure, or social context—helps establishing a more appropriate benchmark. Neighboring countries, for example, often share similar characteristics. This section restricts the sample from 29 to 10 countries that share a border with Germany: Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Poland.

Following Table 4, the main results can be summarized as follows:

- While not the worst across all dimensions, Germany is never among the top performers—and in some areas like low work intensity, it ranks last.
- When compared to its neighbors, Germany ranks in the lower third (8<sup>th</sup>) in child poverty and social exclusion (AROPE), while on income poverty alone (AROP), Germany ranks 6<sup>th</sup>, and it is underperforming compared to neighbors like Denmark, Poland, the Netherlands, Czechia and Belgium.
- The SMSD reinforces this picture of relative underperformance (8<sup>th</sup> in 2024), especially in ensuring children have access to material necessities.

Table 4 –Countries ranking on the percentage of children under 18 years at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) and subdomains, 2024 or latest.2023/24

ISO2	At-risk-of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE)	At-risk-of Poverty (AROP)	Severe Material and Social Deprivation (SMSD)	Very Low Work Intensity (VLWI)
CZ	1	4	4	6
NL	2	3	4	6
DK	3	1	6	5
PL	4	2	1	2
BE	5	5	9	8
AT	6	7	7	4
CH	7	8	3	3
DE	8	6	8	10
LU	9	10	2	1
FR	10	9	10	9

Note: Children (aged less than 18) At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion - EU2030 target [tepsr\_lm412]; At-risk-of-poverty rate by age group - EU-SILC survey [tessi012]; Severe material and social deprivation rate by age group and sex [sdg\_01\_31]; Children (aged less than 18) living in households with very low work intensity by sex [tepsr\_spi130]. Data updated in June 2025.

As shown in Table 5, the country's relative weaknesses emerge clearly at the item level—particularly in areas such as financial strain (inability to face unexpected expenses, 10<sup>th</sup> position), digital access (lack of internet at home, 10<sup>th</sup>), nutrition (inability to afford daily protein meals, 9<sup>th</sup>), and social participation (limited access to leisure activities and meals outside the home, 9<sup>th</sup>) placing Germany in the bottom quartile of the reduced sample—though not as the worst performer, as only France scores lower.

- In indicators such as the ability to keep the home adequately warm and the replacement of worn-out clothes the country ranks at 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> positions;
- other items, such as the inability to afford a one-week holiday (rank 7), pocket money (7), and participation in leisure activities (9), position Germany in the lower third of the distribution. While these do not represent systematic bottom rankings, they indicate a pattern of underperformance across key aspects of children's material deprivation.

Table 5 – Germany's rank in SMSD subdomains, EU10 neighbors

	SMSD 0-17	Arrears	Financial Expenses	Holidays	Meal with proteins	House warm	Worn out furniture	Personal car	Worn out clothes	Internet at home	Leisure activities	Meal outside	Money for yourself
PL	1	3	7	10	5	5	1	3	2	5	4	4	4
LU	2	9	6	2	3	2	5	1	2	3	2	7	4
CH	3	8	2	1	1	1	3	4	4	1	6	4	3
CZ	4	1	3	5	8	6	10	5	1	7	1	1	1
NL	4	2	1	3	2	9	9	7	5	1	3	3	9
DK	6	5	4	4	3	4	4	10	9	3	5	6	6
AT	7	5	7	6	7	3	2	6	6	9	7	2	2
DE	8	5	10	7	9	8	6	9	7	10	9	9	7
BE	9	4	5	8	6	6	7	8	8	6	8	10	10
FR	10	10	9	9	10	10	8	2	10	8	10	8	8

Note: See figure A2 in Appendix for more details. Data accessed in April 2025.

To conclude, we summarize the performance of Germany within the EU27+2 and EU10 (Table 6). This table shows that the overall performance of Germany is worse when compared to the EU10 peer group than when benchmarked against the broader EU27+2. While it generally ranks in the middle third for most SMSD indicators in the EU27+2 comparison, its relative position shifts to the lower third across six indicators when assessed against the more socioeconomically similar EU10 countries.

Table 6 –Relative position of Germany in SMSD within the two samples

SMSD Indicator	EU27+2 Sample	EU10 Neighbors
Arrears	high third	middle third
Holidays	middle third	low third
Worn out furniture	middle third	middle third
House warm	middle third	low third
Worn out clothes	middle third	low third
Personal Car	middle third	low third
Money for yourself	middle third	low third
Unexpected financial expenses	middle third	low third
Leisure activities	low third	low third
Meal outside	low third	low third
Meal with proteins	low third	low third
Internet at home	low third	low third
SMSD 0-17	low third	low third



## 6. Acknowledgments

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## 8. Appendix

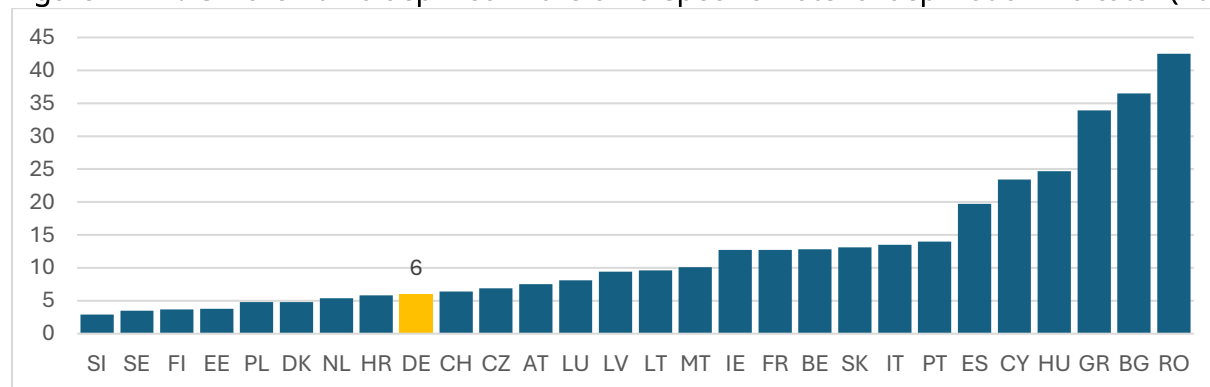
Table A1 – Percentage of children under 18 years at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

iso2	Country	<b>At-risk-of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE)</b>	<i>At-risk- of- Poverty (AROP)</i>	<i>Severe Material and Social Deprivation (SMSD)</i>	<i>Very Low Work Intensity (VLWI)</i>
AT	Austria	22.7	14.9	5.3	5.3
BE	Belgium	20.2	11.5	7.8	9.0
BG	Bulgaria	35.1	21.7	18.2	10.4
CH	Switzerland	22.4	16.4	3.7	3.7
CY	Cyprus	14.8	14.6	4.1	2.4
CZ	Czechia	15.4	9.5	4.2	6.6
DE	Germany	22.1	15.5	7.4	10.1
DK	Denmark	15.9	11.6	4.7	6.2
EE	Estonia	16.5	20.2	3.6	3.6
ES	Spain	34.6	19.7	11.2	6.7
FI	Finland	17.3	12.6	3.5	8.1
FR	France	26.6	15.4	8.9	9.6
GR	Greece	28.1	18.9	15.6	4.2
HR	Croatia	19.3	20.3	1.2	3.3
HU	Hungary	21.1	14.7	12.8	4.7
IE	Ireland	24.3	12.0	8.5	9.8
IT	Italy	27.1	18.9	5.7	7.1
LT	Lithuania	21.7	20.6	6.8	6.6
LU	Luxembourg	25.6	18.1	3.4	2.6
LV	Latvia	17.9	21.6	3.7	4.4
MT	Malta	25.2	16.6	5.6	4.0
NL	Netherlands	15.8	12.1	4.2	6.6
NO	Norway	16.	11.6	3.6	6.5
PL	Poland	16.9	14.0	3.0	3.1
PT	Portugal	20.7	16.6	4.8	4.1
RO	Romania	33.8	19.0	21.2	5.5
SE	Sweden	20.9	14.8	3.6	7.2
SI	Slovenia	11.8	13.2	1.9	2.1
SK	Slovakia	25.3	14.3	11.5	6.1

Note: Data refers to 2024 or latest available data as of June 2025; figures flagged with “u” by EUROSTAT have been discarded and replaced with most recent reliable values. Data refers to: Children (aged less than 18) **At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion** - EU2030 target [tepsr\_lm412]; At-risk-of-poverty rate by age group - EU-SILC survey [tessi012]; Severe material and social deprivation rate by age group and sex [sdg\_01\_31]; Children (aged less than 18) living in households with very low work intensity by sex [tepsr\_spi130]. Data updated in June 2025.

Another measure is the **child-specific material deprivation indicator**, designed to capture deprivation among children under the age of 16. This indicator includes a list of 17 items, of which 12 are specific to children's needs (e.g. access to books, regular leisure activities, suitable clothing), and 5 relate to the household more broadly.

**Figure A1 - % Children 0-16 deprived in the child-specific material deprivation indicator (2021)**



Note: Child specific material deprivation rate by age (children aged less than 16 years) [ilc\_chmd01]. Data accessed in April 2025.

Figure A2 - % Children 0-17 deprived in SMSD subdomains, EU10

