

## SF1.5: Living conditions of children

### **Definitions and methodology**

This indicator presents information on the living conditions of children (0-17) and the quality of the environment in which they live through three main measures:

1. **Children in overcrowded households**, that is, the percent of children (0-17) living in overcrowded households. The definition of 'overcrowded' households follows the Eurostat definition: a person is considered as living in an overcrowded household if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to: one room for the household; one room per adult couple in the household; one room for each single person aged 18 and over; one room per pair of single persons of the same sex between 12 and 17 years of age; one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category; one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.
2. **Children in households that lack basic facilities**, that is, the percent of children (0-17) in households that lack a bath or shower for sole use of the household, an indoor flushing toilet for sole use of the household, or both.
3. **Children living in areas with environmental problems**, that is, the percent of children (0-17) who live in households with self-reported environmental problems in the local area. "Households with self-reported environmental problems in the local area" are those where the household respondent/representative reports either problems with noise from neighbours or from the street or pollution, grime or other environmental problems in the area in which they live.

To highlight differences across socio-economic groups in the proportion of children with poor living conditions, each of these three measures are presented both for all children and for children by family type, by migration background, and by household income. More specifically, each of the three measures is presented for:

- **Family type:** Children living with two parents and children living with one or no parents. 'Parents' are defined as any adult identified as the parent of the child. This includes step- or adoptive parents, as well as biological parents.
- **Migrant status:** Children with a 'native' background and children with a 'migrant' background. Children with a 'native' background are defined as those with at least one parent born in the country of residence. Children with a 'migrant' background are defined as those with both parents born outside the country of residence
- **Household income:** Children living in 'low', 'middle' or 'high' income households. Income is measured using equivalised disposable (post-tax-and-transfer) household income, with 'low', 'medium' and 'high' income households those placed in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd tertiles for equivalised disposable household income, respectively. Income tertiles are calculated based on the distribution by equivalised disposable household income of children aged 0-17, only.

### **Key findings**

On average across European OECD countries, roughly one quarter (23%) of children aged 0-17 live in households that could be considered overcrowded (Chart SF1.5.A). Overcrowding rates are lowest for children in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom – where around 4-6% of children live in overcrowded households – and highest in Hungary and Latvia, where roughly 60% of children live in overcrowded households.

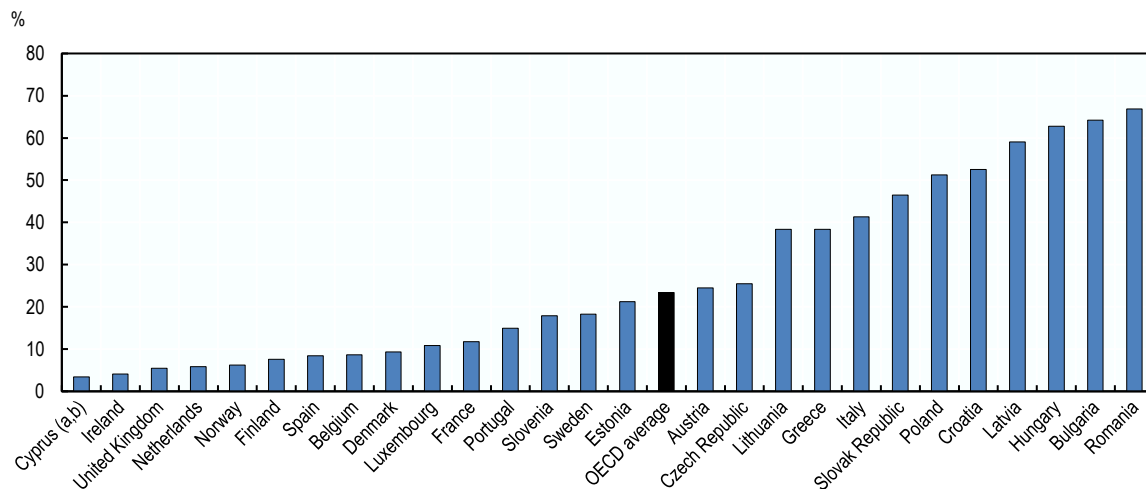
Child overcrowding rates tend to vary considerably with socio-economic status (Table SF1.5.A). For example, across almost all OECD countries with available data, children living with two parents are

**Other relevant indicators:** Children in families (SF1.2), Public spending on family benefits (PF1.1), Child poverty (CO2.2)

significantly less likely to also live in overcrowded households than children living with one or no parents. Similarly, in many countries, overcrowding rates are higher for children with ‘migrant’ backgrounds than for children with ‘native’ backgrounds, and are higher among children in households on lower incomes. Indeed, in many countries, child overcrowding rates are at least three or four times higher for children from low-income households than for children from high-income households (Table SF1.5.A).

### Chart SF1.5.A. Children in overcrowded households, 2017

Percent of children (0-17) in overcrowded households



Note: Values in bold represent statistically significant differences across groups at  $p < 0.05$ . The definition of ‘overcrowded’ households follows the Eurostat definition of overcrowding. A person is considered as living in an overcrowded household if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to: one room for the household; one room per adult couple in the household; one room for each single person aged 18 and over; one room per pair of single persons of the same sex between 12 and 17 years of age; one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category; one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.

a. Footnote by Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus issue”;

b. Footnote by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>), based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2017

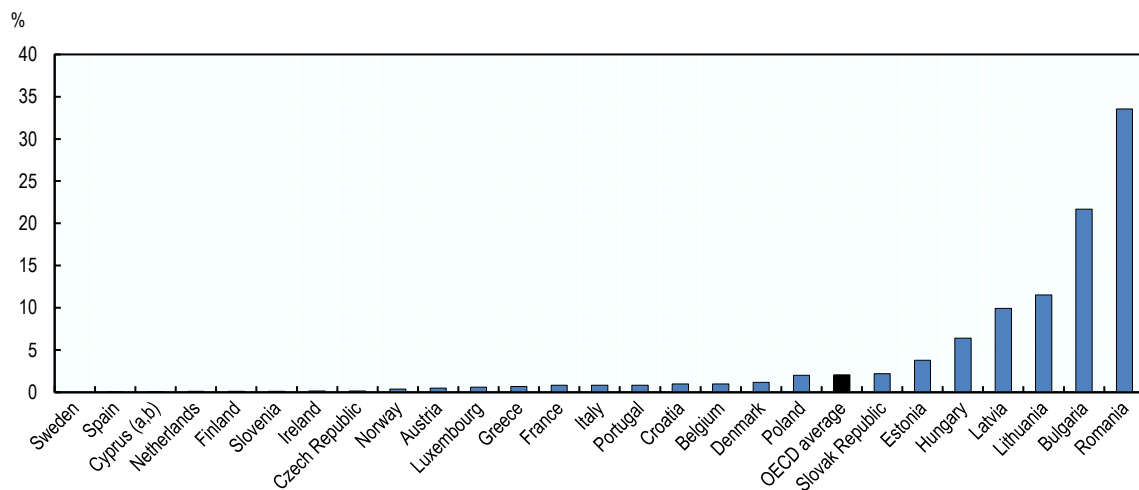
In most OECD countries, very few children live in households that lack basic facilities like a bath or shower or an indoor flushing toilet (Chart SF1.5.B). On average across European OECD countries, only about 2% of children live in households that lack such basic facilities, with rates as low as 0.1% in Finland, Slovenia, Ireland and the Netherlands, and effectively 0% in Spain and Sweden. However, in Latvia and Lithuania around 10% and 12% of children, respectively, live in households that lack either a bath or shower or an indoor flushing toilet.

In many countries, differences across socio-economic groups in the share of children living without basic facilities are only small (Table SF1.5.B). However, in some countries (e.g. Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, and Poland), children are significantly more likely to live in households that lack basic facilities when they do *not* live with two parents. In several others (e.g. Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain), children are significantly more likely to live in a household that lacks basic facilities when they also live in low-income households. On average

across European OECD countries, about 4% of children in low-income households also live in households that lack basic facilities, compared to 0.5% of children in high-income households.

### Chart SF1.5.B. Children in households that lack basic facilities, 2017

Percent of children (0-17) in households that lack either a bath or shower or an indoor flushing toilet



a. see note a. in Chart SF1.5.A

b. see note b. in Chart SF1.5.A

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>), based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2017

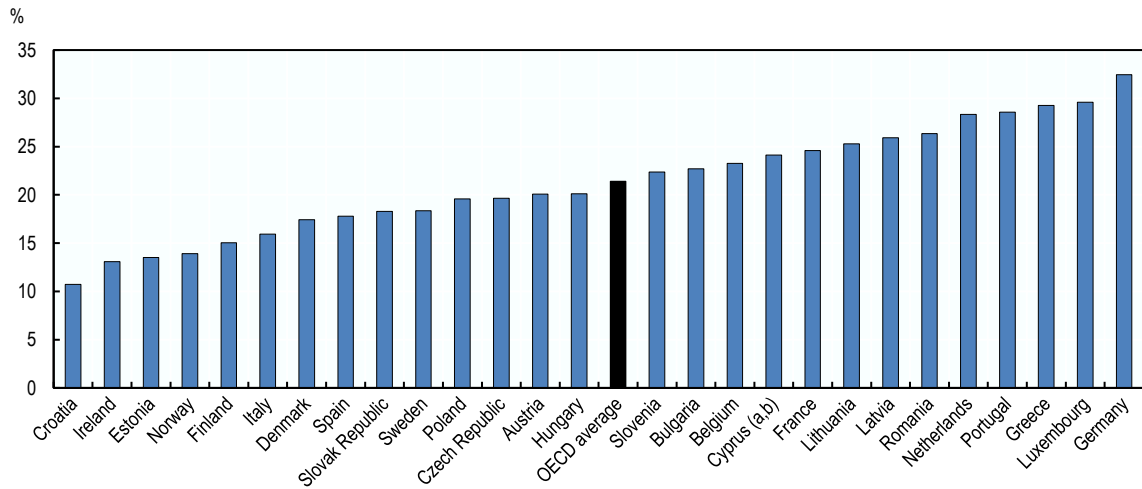
On average across European OECD countries, about 21% of children live in households that self-report poor environmental conditions in terms of noise, pollution, or both (Chart SF1.5.C). Of those countries with comparable data, Ireland has the lowest proportion (13%) of children living in poor environmental conditions, followed by several Nordic countries (Finland, Norway and Denmark), Estonia and Italy. At the other end of the scale, Germany has the largest proportion of children living in households that report poor environmental conditions, followed by Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal and the Netherlands. In Germany, close to one-third (32%) of children live in households that report too much noise in the area and/or pollution or other environmental problems.

In many OECD countries, the likelihood of children living in households that self-report poor environmental conditions tends to increase when the child does not live with two parents (Table SF1.5.C). In France, for example, about 33% of children living with one or no parents also live in households that report poor environmental conditions, compared to 22% of children who live with two parents. In the Netherlands, the incidence of poor environmental conditions increases from 26% for children living with two parents to 45% for those living with one or no parents.

The incidence of poor environmental conditions also often varies with household income, although in ways that differ slightly across countries (Table SF1.5.C). In several European OECD countries (e.g. Denmark, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, and Spain), the incidence of poor environmental conditions decreases with income, with children from high-income households the least likely to suffer from a poor environment. In some others (e.g. the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Ireland, and the Slovak Republic), the incidence of poor environmental conditions decreases between children in low- and middle-income households but then stabilises, with rates similar for children in middle- and high-income households. In Greece, the share in households that self-report poor environmental conditions is actually higher for children in high-income households than for children in middle-income households.

### Chart SF1.5.C. Children living in areas with environmental problems, 2017

Percent of children (0-17) who live in households with self-reported environmental problems in the local area



a. see note a. in Chart SF1.5.A

b. see note b. in Chart SF1.5.A

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>), based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2017

#### Comparability and data issues

The measures on poor environmental conditions show in Chart SF1.5.C and Table SF1.5.C are based on the subjective perception of the main respondent to the survey. As such the responses are likely to be relative to the individual's experiences and may not reflect issues with actual levels of noise or pollution across countries.

##### Sources and further reading:

OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal, <http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>

European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/eu\\_silc](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/eu_silc)

**Table SF1.5.A. Children in overcrowded households, 2017**

Percent of children (0-17) in overcrowded households by family type, migratory background and household income level

	Total	Family type		Migratory background		Household income		
		Two parent	One or no parents	Native background	Migrant background	Low	Medium	High
Austria	24.46	<b>22.78</b>	<b>33.78</b>	<b>13.27</b>	<b>56.27</b>	<b>42.51</b>	<b>19.61</b>	<b>11.24</b>
Belgium	8.67	<b>6.30</b>	<b>15.40</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>29.08</b>	<b>19.65</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>1.43</b>
Czech Republic	25.51	<b>21.84</b>	<b>47.81</b>	<b>24.86</b>	<b>44.65</b>	<b>37.28</b>	<b>23.25</b>	<b>16.00</b>
Denmark	9.32	<b>7.66</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>8.13</b>	<b>22.32</b>	<b>14.44</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>4.21</b>
Estonia	21.26	<b>19.29</b>	<b>31.55</b>	20.91	30.80	<b>30.69</b>	<b>18.90</b>	<b>14.19</b>
Finland	7.62	<b>6.65</b>	<b>13.41</b>	<b>6.89</b>	<b>13.86</b>	<b>13.69</b>	<b>6.76</b>	<b>2.38</b>
France	11.77	<b>9.83</b>	<b>18.44</b>	<b>8.19</b>	<b>39.92</b>	<b>23.88</b>	<b>6.92</b>	<b>4.50</b>
Greece	38.35	<b>37.34</b>	<b>50.27</b>	<b>34.18</b>	<b>72.14</b>	<b>49.28</b>	<b>38.75</b>	<b>27.02</b>
Hungary	62.80	<b>57.42</b>	<b>81.80</b>	..	..	<b>70.42</b>	<b>70.72</b>	<b>47.23</b>
Ireland	4.13	<b>3.02</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>7.56</b>	<b>8.06</b>	<b>3.88</b>	<b>0.45</b>
Italy	41.29	<b>39.13</b>	<b>53.81</b>	<b>36.89</b>	<b>64.27</b>	<b>50.77</b>	<b>43.81</b>	<b>29.30</b>
Luxembourg	10.81	<b>9.06</b>	<b>21.07</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>15.17</b>	<b>19.69</b>	<b>9.26</b>	<b>3.56</b>
Latvia	59.06	<b>53.16</b>	<b>72.74</b>	58.57	65.08	<b>73.05</b>	<b>63.83</b>	<b>40.26</b>
Lithuania	38.34	<b>33.39</b>	<b>52.12</b>	..	..	<b>50.31</b>	<b>41.10</b>	<b>23.60</b>
Netherlands	5.86	<b>4.77</b>	<b>13.43</b>	<b>4.24</b>	<b>20.34</b>	<b>12.34</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>1.62</b>
Norway	6.20	<b>4.45</b>	<b>12.23</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>33.19</b>	<b>14.55</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>1.97</b>
Poland	51.22	<b>48.44</b>	<b>75.49</b>	..	..	<b>62.30</b>	<b>52.26</b>	<b>39.10</b>
Portugal	14.94	<b>12.12</b>	<b>25.62</b>	<b>13.69</b>	<b>32.49</b>	<b>24.72</b>	<b>12.86</b>	<b>7.20</b>
Slovak Republic	46.45	<b>42.75</b>	<b>67.71</b>	..	..	<b>59.34</b>	<b>40.39</b>	<b>39.60</b>
Slovenia	17.89	<b>15.47</b>	<b>33.36</b>	<b>15.58</b>	<b>44.76</b>	<b>29.42</b>	<b>14.48</b>	<b>9.72</b>
Spain	8.41	<b>6.32</b>	<b>19.02</b>	<b>5.82</b>	<b>22.34</b>	<b>15.38</b>	<b>7.18</b>	<b>2.66</b>
Sweden	18.28	<b>13.20</b>	<b>39.44</b>	<b>9.01</b>	<b>46.05</b>	<b>39.42</b>	<b>10.33</b>	<b>5.06</b>
United Kingdom	5.43	<b>4.52</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>3.73</b>	<b>12.22</b>	<b>7.24</b>	<b>6.54</b>	<b>2.52</b>
OECD average	23.40	20.82	35.25	19.52	35.39	33.41	22.21	14.56
Bulgaria	64.21	<b>62.19</b>	<b>73.74</b>	..	..	<b>76.87</b>	<b>60.51</b>	<b>55.20</b>
Croatia	52.52	<b>51.49</b>	<b>63.21</b>	<b>51.54</b>	<b>64.53</b>	<b>68.70</b>	<b>48.12</b>	<b>40.72</b>
Cyprus (a,b)	3.42	2.96	6.81	<b>2.63</b>	<b>8.69</b>	4.25	3.69	2.33
Romania	66.83	<b>64.74</b>	<b>78.73</b>	..	..	<b>76.65</b>	<b>71.26</b>	<b>52.56</b>

Note: Values in bold represent statistically significant differences across groups at  $p < 0.05$ . The definition of 'overcrowded' households follows the Eurostat definition of overcrowding. A person is considered as living in an overcrowded household if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to: one room for the household; one room per adult couple in the household; one room for each single person aged 18 and over; one room per pair of single persons of the same sex between 12 and 17 years of age; one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category; one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.

a. see note a. in Chart SF1.5.A

b. see note b. in Chart SF1.5.A

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>), based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2017

**Table SF1.5.B. Children in households that lack basic facilities, 2017**

Percent of children (0-17) in households that lack either a bath or shower or an indoor flushing toilet by family type, migratory background and household income level

	Total	Family type		Migratory background		Household income		
		Two parent	One or no parents	Native background	Migrant background	Low	Medium	High
Austria	0.50	0.15	2.45	0.16	1.48	1.25	0.26	0.00
Belgium	0.98	0.87	1.27	<b>1.16</b>	<b>0.31</b>	0.99	0.82	1.13
Czech Republic	0.17	0.16	0.21	0.14	1.21	0.32	0.00	0.18
Denmark	1.18	1.35	0.56	0.99	3.49	1.83	1.21	0.50
Estonia	3.79	<b>3.41</b>	<b>5.81</b>	3.82	1.65	<b>5.14</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>1.29</b>
Finland	0.12	0.11	0.17	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.00</b>	0.21	0.09	0.07
France	0.82	0.89	0.61	<b>0.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	1.13	0.88	0.46
Greece	0.68	<b>0.53</b>	<b>2.40</b>	0.72	0.31	<b>1.01</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.30</b>
Hungary	6.40	<b>5.45</b>	<b>9.76</b>	..	..	<b>10.21</b>	<b>7.20</b>	<b>1.79</b>
Ireland	0.14	0.12	0.23	0.04	0.31	0.34	0.00	0.10
Italy	0.83	0.77	1.17	<b>0.48</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.44</b>
Luxembourg	0.60	0.67	0.19	0.73	0.52	0.17	1.13	0.51
Latvia	9.95	<b>8.29</b>	<b>13.81</b>	9.84	5.62	<b>21.17</b>	<b>7.81</b>	<b>0.85</b>
Lithuania	11.53	10.51	14.38	..	..	<b>24.76</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>1.91</b>
Netherlands	0.10	0.05	0.47	0.10	0.13	0.22	0.00	0.09
Norway	0.38	0.40	0.31	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.15</b>
Poland	2.00	<b>1.37</b>	<b>7.49</b>	..	..	<b>4.08</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>0.23</b>
Portugal	0.85	0.92	0.59	0.83	1.48	<b>1.44</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>0.12</b>
Slovak Republic	2.21	1.91	3.93	..	..	<b>6.18</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.02</b>
Slovenia	0.13	0.14	0.07	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Spain	0.04	0.05	0.01	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Sweden	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OECD average	2.07	1.82	3.14	2.02	1.61	3.97	2.29	0.51
Bulgaria	21.67	21.05	24.62	..	..	<b>49.41</b>	<b>10.10</b>	<b>5.47</b>
Croatia	0.98	<b>0.75</b>	<b>3.33</b>	0.99	0.87	<b>2.56</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Cyprus (a,b)	0.10	0.00	0.81	0.11	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00
Romania	33.55	<b>31.27</b>	<b>46.50</b>	..	..	<b>58.70</b>	<b>33.94</b>	<b>7.96</b>

Note: Values in bold represent statistically significant differences across groups at  $p < 0.05$ .

a. see note a. in Chart SF1.5.A

b. see note b. in Chart SF1.5.A

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>), based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2017

**Table SF1.5.C. Children living in areas with environmental problems, 2017**

Percent of children (0-17) who live in households with self-reported environmental problems in the local area by family type, migratory background and household income level

	Total	Family type		Migratory background		Household income		
		Two parent	One or no parents	Native background	Migrant background	Low	Medium	High
Austria	20.07	19.70	22.10	18.83	23.45	19.96	23.30	16.94
Belgium	23.26	<b>21.38</b>	<b>28.60</b>	<b>20.81</b>	<b>34.10</b>	<b>34.53</b>	<b>18.75</b>	<b>16.48</b>
Czech Republic	19.65	19.61	19.87	19.76	14.88	<b>23.17</b>	<b>18.34</b>	<b>17.44</b>
Denmark	17.42	<b>14.56</b>	<b>28.22</b>	17.87	12.25	<b>24.24</b>	<b>17.74</b>	<b>10.27</b>
Estonia	13.51	13.40	14.08	13.51	16.54	<b>15.15</b>	<b>14.84</b>	<b>10.52</b>
Finland	15.05	<b>12.77</b>	<b>28.74</b>	<b>14.34</b>	<b>26.26</b>	<b>19.35</b>	<b>12.26</b>	<b>13.54</b>
France	24.59	<b>22.30</b>	<b>32.45</b>	<b>23.55</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>30.94</b>	<b>21.90</b>	<b>20.92</b>
Germany	32.44	<b>31.00</b>	<b>39.70</b>	32.34	34.20	<b>38.76</b>	<b>33.83</b>	<b>24.68</b>
Greece	29.28	29.33	28.68	<b>29.92</b>	<b>24.65</b>	<b>25.94</b>	<b>27.92</b>	<b>33.99</b>
Hungary	20.11	<b>18.72</b>	<b>25.01</b>	..	..	<b>24.86</b>	<b>18.89</b>	<b>16.57</b>
Ireland	13.07	<b>11.13</b>	<b>19.98</b>	12.45	13.19	<b>18.80</b>	<b>10.38</b>	<b>10.04</b>
Italy	15.93	15.52	18.30	<b>16.57</b>	<b>12.65</b>	17.00	14.66	16.13
Luxembourg	29.59	<b>30.55</b>	<b>23.99</b>	<b>25.83</b>	<b>32.36</b>	35.03	23.95	29.77
Latvia	25.91	26.68	24.12	<b>26.11</b>	<b>13.23</b>	28.89	22.96	25.89
Lithuania	25.29	25.18	25.60	..	..	25.78	25.06	25.04
Netherlands	28.33	<b>25.90</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>27.72</b>	<b>34.79</b>	<b>38.78</b>	<b>25.74</b>	<b>20.48</b>
Norway	13.92	13.19	16.47	<b>12.35</b>	<b>28.75</b>	<b>18.59</b>	<b>14.06</b>	<b>9.20</b>
Poland	19.59	19.59	19.66	..	..	18.57	19.46	20.76
Portugal	28.58	28.02	30.68	28.57	29.57	<b>31.51</b>	<b>29.26</b>	<b>24.94</b>
Slovak Republic	18.30	17.94	20.38	..	..	<b>24.13</b>	<b>15.45</b>	<b>15.31</b>
Slovenia	22.35	<b>21.69</b>	<b>26.60</b>	<b>22.87</b>	<b>14.78</b>	22.36	20.91	23.79
Spain	17.77	17.35	19.94	17.09	21.03	<b>21.65</b>	<b>17.71</b>	<b>13.96</b>
Sweden	18.36	<b>15.64</b>	<b>29.76</b>	17.86	19.26	<b>24.09</b>	<b>17.31</b>	<b>13.75</b>
OECD average	21.41	20.48	25.56	21.04	23.12	25.31	20.20	18.71
Bulgaria	22.69	<b>21.67</b>	<b>27.49</b>	..	..	<b>34.27</b>	<b>15.39</b>	<b>18.42</b>
Croatia	10.71	10.76	10.25	10.71	11.14	9.39	11.01	11.73
Cyprus (a,b)	24.12	24.52	21.12	24.55	20.86	24.21	24.14	23.99
Romania	26.34	<b>27.27</b>	<b>21.10</b>	..	..	23.64	26.66	28.73

Note: Values in bold represent statistically significant differences across groups at  $p < 0.05$ .

a. see note a. in Chart SF1.5.A

b. see note b. in Chart SF1.5.A

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data/>), based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2017