

# Social Inclusion Monitor 2013

March 2015

The purpose of the Social Inclusion Monitor is to report officially on progress towards the national social target for poverty reduction, including the sub-target on child poverty and Ireland's contribution to the Europe 2020 poverty target. It also presents information on supporting indicators of poverty and social exclusion.

This Monitor refers to the year 2013, which is the latest data available from the CSO *Survey on Income and Living Conditions* (published in January 2015) and from Eurostat (February 2015). Improvements in the timeliness of the data are expected for 2014.

The Monitor is published by the Department of Social Protection. Responsibility for the analysis of the data rests solely with the Department.

## Main findings

- There was continued recovery in economic growth and employment in 2013, leading to a fall in unemployment.
- The at-risk-of-poverty rate fell for the first time in three years, as did the anchored at-risk-of-poverty, confirming real improvements in the incomes of the poorest households.
- Social transfers (excluding pensions) lifted almost a quarter of the population above the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, thereby achieving a poverty reduction effectiveness of over 60 per cent, the highest in the EU.
- The basic deprivation rate increased to over 30 per cent as households struggled with the legacy of the economic crisis, which by 2013 had lasted five years.
- Consistent poverty increased marginally to 8.2 per cent, leaving a gap of four percentage points to be bridged to meet the interim poverty target by 2016.
- There was an increase in consistent poverty among children to over 11 per cent. The child poverty target now requires 100,000 children to be lifted out of poverty by 2020.
- No progress was made towards the Europe 2020 target.
- Income inequality remains largely unchanged, while in-work poverty has fallen by one percentage point to 5 per cent.
- While the Border, South-East and West regions have the highest levels of consistent poverty (9 to 18 per cent), in overall terms poverty is not spatially concentrated.