



MINIMUM
ESSENTIAL
BUDGET
STANDARDS
RESEARCH CENTRE



MESL 2021

Annual Update

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**WORKING FOR SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
TACKLING POVERTY
AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

MESL 2021

ANNUAL UPDATE

MESL RESEARCH TEAM

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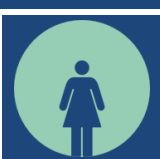
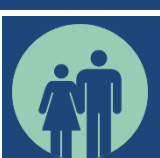
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Table 1 MESL Income Adequacy Assessment[†], 2021*

		Urban		Rural	
		Social Welfare	Employed NMW [†]	Social Welfare	Employed NMW [†]
Two Parents & Two Children, Pre-School & Primary TP2a					
	MESL Need	485.16	707.28	534.15	767.51
	Income (Net)	481.20	779.72	481.20	779.58
	Adequacy	-3.96	72.45	-52.95	12.07
Two Parents & Two Children, Primary & Second Level TP2b					
	MESL Need	572.90	710.90	618.09	826.10
	Income (Net)	493.49	779.90	493.49	779.78
	Adequacy	-79.41	69.00	-124.60	-46.32
One Parent & Two Children, Pre-School & Primary					
	MESL Expenditure	368.37	551.00	437.68	542.27
	Income (Net)	361.58	682.06	361.58	682.06
	Adequacy	-6.79	131.06	-76.10	139.78
One Parent & Two Children, Primary & Second Level					
	MESL Expenditure	456.21	558.52	521.54	613.17
	Income (Net)	373.87	634.55	373.87	634.55
	Adequacy	-82.34	76.04	-147.68	21.39
Single Adult, Working Age, Living Alone					
	MESL Expenditure [‡]	251.82	496.88	285.05	424.09
	Income (Net)	203.00	356.90	203.00	356.90
	Adequacy	-48.82	-139.98	-82.05	-67.19
Pensioner, Living Alone					
	MESL Expenditure	256.67		328.89	
	Income (Net)	273.58		273.58	
	Adequacy	16.90		-55.32	
Pensioner Couple					
	MESL Expenditure	326.72		416.67	
	Income (Net)	428.78		428.78	
	Adequacy	102.05		12.11	

* Details, additional scenarios, and further households available in appendix tables.

† Based on adult(s) in household in full-time (37.5 hours) employment.

Introduction

The Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL) is decided on by members of the public, working together in deliberative focus groups to reach consensus on what is the minimum people need to live and partake in Irish society. It is a standard of living which people agree no one should be expected to live below. It represents the minimum required to meet physical, social and psychological needs, and enable a life with dignity.

Since the first VPSJ consensual budget standards research was published in 2006, for six urban household types, ongoing research projects have expanded the dataset to cover 90% of households in Ireland. This report presents the 14th annual update of the MESL expenditure needs data, updating the minimum expenditure needs data and assessment of income adequacy to 2021.

In 2020 the VPSJ completed an extensive two-year research project, which has reviewed and rebased the MESL data for all household types.ⁱⁱⁱ This process has re-established *reviewed* and *rebased* Minimum Essential Standard of Living expenditure needs budgets, establishing a new base point in the ongoing series of MESL data. Each iteration of the MESL baskets builds on the previous, the review process identifies the content alterations necessary to accurately update the MESL baskets to current requirements. As such the reviewed baskets represent the latest and most current set of budget standards data detailing what is required for a socially acceptable minimum standard of living.

The 2021 MESL report presents the first annual update of the reviewed and rebased MESL expenditure needs baskets. This update is based on a blend of direct pricing and inflation adjusted estimates but does not introduce any basket content adjustments.

A reprice of a majority of the MESL basket items was due in 2021, however COVID-19 restrictions in the first half of the year posed difficulties in undertaking a full reprice. Consequently, where repricing was not possible the data has been supplemented by item level inflation adjustments as necessary.

In addition to providing the most current MESL expenditure needs data, this report details an analysis of the changing costs of an MESL and benchmarks the adequacy of both social welfare supports and minimum wage employment for a range of household compositions.

The analysis examines the adequacy gap between households' MESL expenditure need and rates of social welfare and/or minimum rates of pay. In doing this, the extent and breadth of the gap is monitored, and factors which have contributed to changes in the incidence of deep inadequacy are identified.

Context

Prior to the pandemic the reality was one of over 695,000 people living below the at-risk of poverty threshold, including over 210,000 children, and over 105,000 people with a job but remaining 'at risk of poverty'.^{iv} Furthermore, social welfare rates were inadequate to meet the minimum needs of many household types, as measured by the Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL) research.

The crisis arising from COVID-19 and its impact on individuals, families, society, jobs and the economy presents many challenges. The ESRI^v have warned of the potential for a sharp increase in child poverty due to the economic effects of COVID-19. The significant level of COVID-19 related job losses has mostly impacted on younger and lower paid workers,^{vi} this creates the potential for long-term negative effects on the earnings and employment of the groups effected.^{vii}

The Programme for Government^{viii} makes a welcome commitment to protecting core weekly social welfare rates and recognising the importance of secondary benefits and supports. It also commits to the implementation of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion to ‘improve outcomes for those who are struggling on low incomes’ (2020: 75). The Programme also sets a mission to improve the wellbeing of Irish people and society, while the Roadmap makes it clear that poverty and social exclusion are the antithesis of wellbeing.

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion^{ix} further develops the understanding of poverty and social exclusion and defines social inclusion as ‘having access to sufficient income, resources and services to enable [people] to play an active part in their communities and participate in activities that are considered the norm for people in society generally’ (2020: 5). This is a clear recognition that the improvement of wellbeing and achievement of social inclusion require adequate income.

As our society begins the recovery from the pandemic it is crucial that the wellbeing of all is ensured, and that those on inadequately low incomes (whether already living with inadequate income when entering this crisis or those newly reliant on state income supports due to COVID-19) are supported. Decisions made now can make progressive steps towards benchmarking social welfare rates against the cost of a Minimum Essential Standard of Living and so ensure that all households are supported to live with dignity at a socially acceptable minimum level, providing for wellbeing and social inclusion.

MESL Research Background

The VPSJ's Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL) budget standards research works with members of the public in deliberative focus groups to reach consensus on the minimum people need to live and partake in Irish society, at a standard of living which people agree no one should be expected to live below. It represents the minimum required to meet physical, social and psychological needs, and enable a life with dignity.

The research is iterative, working through multiple phases of deliberative focus groups, to establish a negotiated social consensus on what people regard as essential for households to have a minimum, but socially acceptable standard of living. In this way the MESL is a tangible measure, grounded in lived experience and derived from social consensus, of what is required for participation, dignity and avoiding poverty.

The MESL research operationalises the concepts which underpin the Irish Government definition of poverty and social inclusion, the human right to an adequate standard of living, and the key principle set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights that all have a right to an adequate minimum income which enables a life with dignity.

The MESL translates these concepts and ideals into a practical indicator, as it specifies the average weekly cost of the goods and services deemed necessary to enable a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. In practical terms, the MESL operationalises a direct measure of poverty, providing a unique benchmark of what is required to enable participation, inclusion and a life with dignity, i.e. what is required to avoid poverty.

The MESL provides an alternative, and complementary, measure for assessing relative poverty. It also provides a vital evidence-based benchmark for assessing the adequacy of social welfare supports and minimum rates of pay.

A Minimum Essential Standard of Living

- › is a standard of living which no one should be expected to live below
 - › is decided by members of the public, agreeing on what is needed to live at an acceptable dignified standard and take part in the day-to-day life of Irish society
 - › is the minimum needed to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of individuals and households
 - › is a minimum standard for everyone, not just those in poverty
 - › counts the actual weekly cost of the over 2,000 items (goods and services) needed to enable a socially acceptable minimum standard of living
 - › is a unique benchmark, grounded in the lived experience of people, which complements other poverty measures. It shines a light on the extent to which individuals and households can afford a minimum standard of living
-

Origins of the VPSJ's MESL Research

The VPSJ's first research project 'One Long Struggle' (2000), focused on the experience of over 100 low-income households across Dublin. The study found that the majority of these households struggled unsuccessfully to 'make ends meet' and were constantly in debt.

In response to this experience, the VPSJ's MESL budget standards research was inspired by the request from participants:

Will no one show the decision-makers what it is like to live on
Social Welfare payments or the Minimum Wage?
Will no one show them just what people need to make ends
meet, and to have a life with dignity?

The reality of this experience encouraged the VPSJ to undertake the research to establish what is needed for a standard of living that meets the physical, psychological and social needs of individuals and households at a minimum but acceptable standard of living.

Extent of the MESL dataset

The VPSJ's MESL research has been ongoing since 2004, establishing the budget standards data for a broad range of household types and compositions in urban and rural areas, over the course of multiple research projects.

The data is updated annually to reflect current prices, and the contents of the expenditure budgets are periodically reviewed to ensure the MESL continues to reflect a social consensus on what is required for a minimum socially acceptable standard of living.

The MESL dataset now covers 90% of households across urban and rural Ireland, providing a unique, current and up to date, resource defining the expenditure and income required for a socially acceptable minimum standard of living in Ireland today.

Household Types

The MESL dataset covers six household types

- › Two Parent household types, with 1 to 4 children
- › One Parent household types, with 1 to 4 children
- › Single Adults, of working age
- › Cohabiting Couple, of working age
- › Pensioner, living alone
- › Pensioner Couple

Child age-groups

The data establishes the MESL needs at four distinct stages of childhood

- › Infant
- › Pre-School
- › Primary School
- › Second Level

This report focuses on a subset of representative household compositions, presenting the minimum expenditure need for the households in both urban and rural areas. The household types and compositions presented in this report are only a small sample of the full range of households covered by the MESL expenditure needs data.

The appendix, at the end of this document, includes detailed income calculation tables for each of the household compositions in all the scenarios presented throughout this report.

Further information on the household budgets, including the core MESL expenditure need for the full range of urban and rural household compositions, is available on the VPSJ's Minimum Essential Budget Standards Research Centre website, budgeting.ie.

Updating the MESL data

To ensure the MESL data continues to reflect lived experience, remaining relevant and grounded in social consensus, it is necessary to re-engage with members of the public through deliberative focus groups. Here, individual citizens review what is required for an MESL. This entails re-examining what is in the MESL baskets for each household type, considering, interrogating and adapting the content of the MESL baskets to current needs. Subsequently the basket contents are fully repriced. This establishes reviewed and rebased MESL baskets, setting a new point in the series of MESL data, with the contents of the baskets fully reviewed and directly priced.

This process was conducted by the MESL research team over the course of 2018/19, with the finalised data published in 2020.^x The 2018/19 review was the second full review undertaken by the VPSJ since the first tranche of MESL baskets were published in 2006. The review and rebase process establishes key points in the series of MESL data. The annual updates for intervening years are based on inflation adjustments, and as such provide an estimate of the minimum costs. Therefore the 2020 reviewed and rebased data is not directly comparable with the adjusted data for previous years – this was also the case when the MESL data was last reviewed in 2012.

Prior to the completion of the review and rebase in 2020, the annual update presented an adjusted estimate of the MESL costs. The adjustment utilised a set of 22 Consumer Price Index (CPI) sub-index rates. Each MESL basket category was adjusted by the applicable sub-rate, and in some instances basket categories were split to apply multiple rates within a category. In conjunction with this, key items such as public transport costs were repriced annually, and other large items such as car insurance and waste charges were priced every two to three years.

Following from the review a refined adjustment methodology has been introduced from 2020 onwards. Now when adjusting the basket costs the most specific CPI sub-rate available is applied at an item level. This approach makes use of 128 separate rates to adjust the unit price of each basket item at the most granular level possible, excluding the effect of price changes in the rest of the CPI basket. This approach should improve the accuracy of the estimate for the cost of an MESL in the years between re-pricing the baskets.

Analysis of the results of the review and rebase process have made it apparent that regular repricing of the MESL basket items is necessary to ensure the accuracy of the annual MESL series through limiting the reliance on inflation adjusted prices^{xi}. The annual updating method now limits inflation adjustments to a maximum of two years, repricing items in the third year.

The intention is to limit the reliance on adjusted pricing data, improving the accuracy of the annual MESL series

Repricing the 2021 MESL

In the MESL baskets approximately three-quarters of the items were last directly priced in the third and fourth quarter of 2018, most of the remaining items were priced in the second half of 2019. In 2021 a reprice of the MESL baskets was due for the items last priced in 2018.

However, the restrictions arising from COVID-19 posed challenges to undertaking the repricing. With non-essential retail being closed in the first half of 2021 direct in-person pricing could not take place for large sections of the MESL basket. While many retailers have an online presence, several of the lower cost shops and brands which are specified for a range of items within the minimum baskets do not offer online shopping, or a full listing of their goods and prices on a website.

Consequently, a pragmatic approach was taken, repricing what was possible to reprice but where necessary extending inflation adjustments for a further year.

Where a retailer has a comprehensive online presence, repricing took place for the 2021 MESL baskets. For the outstanding items, which it was not possible to reprice, the research team will aim to reprice over the later part of 2021 and into 2022, as restrictions ease and retailers reopen. The 2022 MESL update will then include the repricing of the outstanding items which were due to be repriced in 2021 and the repricing of the further items due to be repriced in 2022.

The 2021 MESL update presents the directly priced cost (where possible) and adjusted estimate (where necessary), as prices stood in the first half of the year. Repricing took place over the course of March and April, where items have not been repriced the cost was adjusted for inflation to March.

It was possible to reprice approximately 75% of items in the child baskets and 85% in the parental baskets. For the working-age adults without children 65% of items were re-priced in 2021; however, 21% of the basket items are not due to be repriced until 2022 (as they were last priced in 2019). In the case of the baskets for older people 60% of items were repriced, while 30% of items are not due to be repriced until 2022. For all household baskets it was necessary to extend the use of adjusted prices, but as can be seen from these figures this was minimised to the greatest degree possible.

The basket categories with a notable number of items which were not possible to reprice include, clothing, health, household goods, personal care and social inclusion. Within education, it was possible to reprice school books and materials, but not possible to reprice school activities and uniforms.

MESL basket contents and COVID-19

The 2018/19 review & rebase of the MESL basket contents established a recent pre-pandemic baseline of minimum needs. As detailed above, each year the costs in the baskets are updated to reflect current prices, in 2021 the cost update is primarily based on repricing the items in the basket supplemented by inflation adjustments where necessary.

The MESL basket establishes a baseline of minimum needs. The annual update does not incorporate adjustments to needs which may have arisen from the multiple changes brought to how people have lived over the course of the pandemic.

The 2018/19 review introduced multiple changes to the basket contents to reflect evolution in minimum needs, and in a number of cases these needs became all the more apparent in the context of COVID-19. For example, the review established that households should have broadband and Wi-Fi, a laptop computer for the household, and a smartphone for each adult and teenage child. The need for this connectivity existed prior to COVID-19 and became more acute during the pandemic.

The above example is also illustrative in demonstrating that the MESL basket content has not been changed due to COVID-19. For example, the MESL basket is limited to a single laptop computer for the household. In the context of school closures and remote learning this may not have been sufficient for households with multiple school age children. However, the basket content has not been changed to reflected possible changed needs arising from COVID-19.

The MESL baskets are evidence-based, derived from deliberative focus groups agreeing what is required for an acceptable minimum standard of living. Current changes in living patterns may be temporary in nature, and the extent to which they will become a permanent fixture remains to be seen. As such, the MESL baskets will continue to evolve and reflect changing patterns of minimum needs over time, with the basket contents updated during the next review project.

The Cost of an MESL in 2021

Within the baskets there have been fluctuations in minimum costs with some categories of expenditure increasing and others decreasing. The magnitude and direction of fluctuation varies between individual budgets due to the variation in the specific items required for an MESL.

There have been modest changes in the cost of most basket categories. Food and clothing costs have generally shown a slight decrease. While, household goods, communications and personal care have shown increases. There has been an increase in education related costs, primarily due to an increase in the price of a laptop computer.

For the most part such fluctuations have been minor and increases in one area are largely offset by decreases in other areas. However, there has been slight upward pressure on costs for households with children. This is evident in both the budgets for both adults and school-age children, and particularly notable in the budget for a baby where a 2.9% increase in minimum costs have been fuelled by higher costs for milk formula, nappies and anti-bacterial wipes.

Transport related costs for households using public transport have not changed in the last year. For households which require a car to meet transport needs costs have increased, mainly driven by an increase in fuel prices. A reduction in car insurance prices has partially offset the increased car related costs for households requiring private transport.

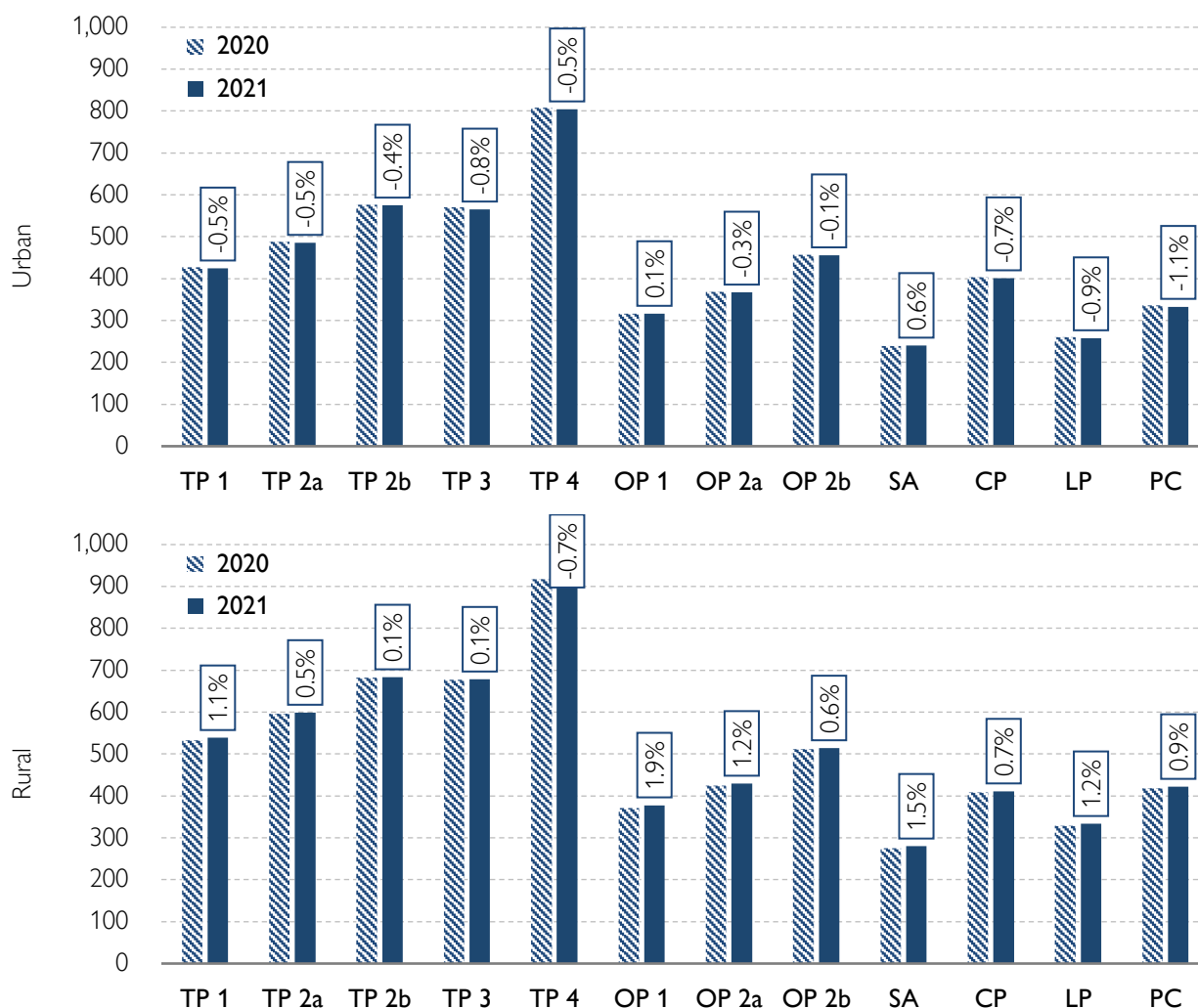
Home energy costs also increased. However, the increase was more acute in the case of the rural region due to a significant increase in home heating oil prices. The increase in both prices for private transport and home heating oil have resulted in a greater increase in non-housing minimum costs for rural based households compared to urban households.

The MESL baskets include a health insurance plan which offers a basic level of public hospital cover and meets a proportion of primary care costs, for example GP and dentist visits. This cost is only included in situations where a household would not be eligible for a full Medical Card. In 2021 the cost of health insurance in the MESL has reduced by approximately 2%.

At the household level the core MESL cost (excluding housing, childcare, and effect of secondary benefits)^{xii} has shown an average change of -0.4% for a set of indicative household compositions in an urban area. However, the impact of rising oil prices has led to 0.9% increase for the same set of household compositions when in a rural area.

When health insurance is not a factor, i.e. for social welfare dependent households which are eligible for a full medical card, the same set of household compositions shows an average increase in core MESL costs of 0.2% in an urban area and 1.3% in a rural area.

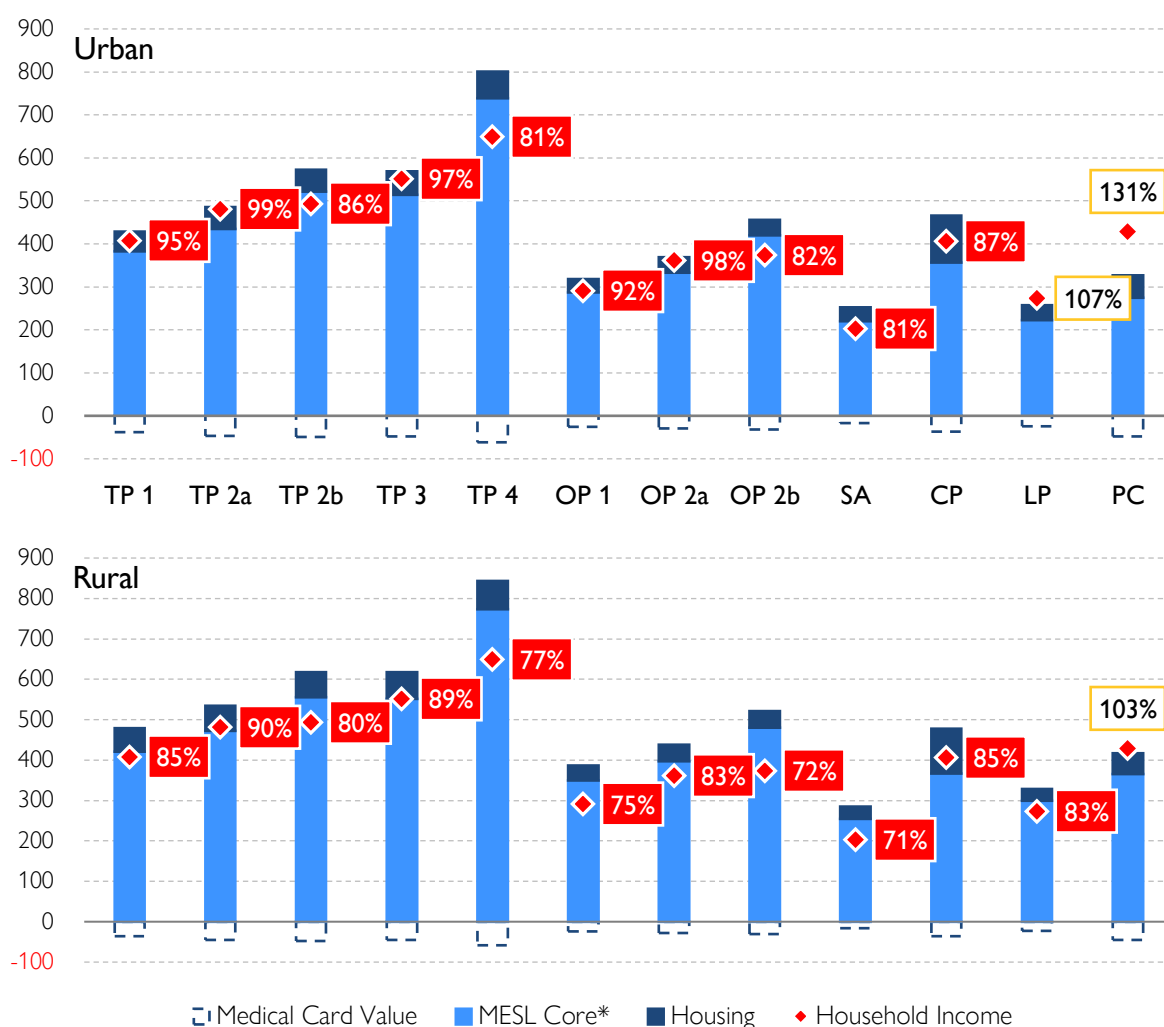
Graph 1 Change in weekly Core MESL expenditure, 12 representative household compositions (Excludes housing, childcare and effect of secondary benefits)



Social Welfare Adequacy Assessment

The MESL consensual budget standards research contributes a unique indicator to the debate on what constitutes a socially acceptable minimum level for a life with dignity. It provides a unique body of evidence to shine a light on what is needed to avoid poverty, enable participation and inclusion; and to inform debate on where the appropriate level of a minimally adequate income may lie. In this way, the MESL expenditure needs data serves as a benchmark to assess the adequacy of social welfare supports.

Graph 2 Social welfare benchmarked against MESL expenditure need, € per week
12 representative household compositions



This section presents the MESL assessment of social welfare income inadequacy for 2021. The analysis first presents a broad evaluation 214 test household cases, identifying patterns of income inadequacy and the particular characteristics of need which are not adequately addressed by the social welfare system.

The position of a set of 12 representative household compositions is illustrated, in Graph 2, to demonstrate specific instances of the issues highlighted. These compositions are representative of

typical household make-ups and illustrate various aspects of the income adequacy and inadequacy found in the analysis.

The analysis assesses social welfare supports against the total MESL cost (including housing) adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (primarily the medical card) for each of the household compositions. The discussion focuses primarily on urban based households. The housing costs included are based on differential rent (and the Rent Supplement tenant contribution for working age household without children). Households not in traditional social housing, e.g. receiving Housing Assistance Payment while in private rented accommodation, may face additional costs in the form of rent top-ups.

The detail of these calculations along with the position of these households in additional income scenarios are presented in full in the appendix.

A broad evaluation of 214 test household cases benchmarking the adequacy of social welfare supports, is first examined.

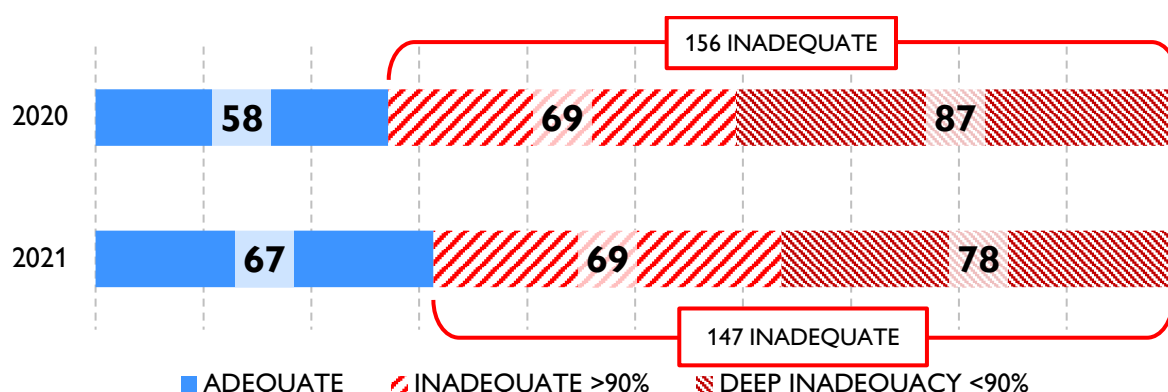
Social welfare income adequacy

To examine social welfare income adequacy an evaluation of 214 test household cases is carried out^{xiii}. The MESL expenditure need for each household situation is calculated, when in an urban area and living in social housing (rent supplement for working-age households without children), this provides a benchmark to measure the adequacy of the applicable social welfare supports. The analysis identifies trends in income inadequacy with a focus on deep income inadequacy. The particular dimensions of household need and the response of the social welfare system which contribute to income inadequacy are highlighted.

Table 2 214 Household Test Cases

Two Parents	1 to 4 children, 4 age-groups	Social Housing	Jobseeker & Qualified Adult	69 cases
Two Parents	1 to 4 children, 4 age-groups	Social Housing	Jobseeker x 2	69 cases
One Parent	1 to 4 children, 4 age-groups	Social Housing	OFP / Jobseeker	69 cases
Working Age, No Children	Single & Couple	Rent Supplement	Jobseeker	2 cases
Pensioner	Living Alone & Couple	Social Housing	State Pension	5 cases

Graph 3 Benchmarking Social Welfare Adequacy, 2020 & 2021 – 214 test cases



In 2021, 67 cases have an adequate income which meets minimum needs. However, in 147 cases the income supports provided from social welfare are inadequate to meet minimum needs. This is an improvement from 2020, with nine additional situations demonstrating income adequacy in 2021.

Within the 147 inadequate cases, 69 have an income which meets at least 90% of MESL need, and 78 cases demonstrate deep income inadequacy, where social welfare provides for less than 90% of need.

The number of cases with an inadequate income which meets at least 90% of MESL need is unchanged from 2020. However, the household compositions in this category have changed. Nine cases have moved from a position of deep income inadequacy to having an income which meets at least 90% of needs. Furthermore, nine cases have moved from a position of income inadequacy in 2020 to a position of adequacy in 2021.

Of the nine cases which now show income adequacy:

- 1 is a lone parent household composition with young children
In 2020 social welfare provided for 99.7% of minimum needs, the improvements to the qualified child rates and fuel allowance moved this case to income adequacy in 2021.
- 8 are two-parent household compositions
 - Four of these cases are compositions with only children below second level age
 - The remaining four cases are compositions which include one second level age child, and in three of the cases the composition also includes other younger children.

The combination of improvement to the qualified child rates (and the fuel allowance) and marginal changes in the cost of an MESL enabled the improvement of the position of these cases.

Deep income inadequacy

Deep income inadequacy means household income meets less than 90% of a household composition's MESL expenditure need. The MESL standard represents a socially negotiated consensus on the necessities and essentials which people have generally agreed everyone needs to have for a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. Having a consistently inadequate income means doing without what is required to meet basic needs and to take part in normal day-to-day activities and participate in society.

The analysis of the 2021 MESL assessment of social welfare income adequacy finds that deep income inadequacy is concentrated in households with older children (aged 12 and over) and one adult headed households, i.e. lone parent households and single working-age adult households. This is consistent with the findings of the MESL analysis in previous years.

Older children aged 12 and over

Older children have additional and different needs distinct from children in younger age groups. The cost of an MESL is highest for older children, aged 12 and over. The direct MESL needs of older children cost approximately €133 per week, 60% more than the minimum needs of younger children. Social welfare supports meet 62.2% of the MESL costs for an older child, compared to meeting at least 87.5% of MESL costs of children under 12.¹ Consequently, deep income inadequacy is found more frequently in household compositions with older children.

Of the 214 test cases examined, 207 are household compositions with children. These are comprised of 69 permutations of household composition with one to four children across four age groups, examined in the context of a One-Parent household type and a Two Parent household type in two distinct income scenarios. Within this set of test cases, 35 of the 69 from each of the household with children compositions include older children, a total of 105 cases.

Table 3 Social Welfare Adequacy – Households with children

		INADEQUATE		ADEQUATE	
		Income < 90%	Income > 90%	Income < €5	Income > €5
TP 1JS & 1 QA	ALL (69)	29	30	2	8
TP 2JS	ALL (69)	6	20	4	39
OP OFP / JS	ALL (69)	41	19	1	8
TP 1JS & 1 QA	OLDER (35)	28	7	0	0
TP 2JS	OLDER (35)	6	20	2	7
OP OFP / JS	OLDER (35)	31	4	0	0

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the social welfare adequacy test for each of the household with children compositions, in one and two parent household types. Households with older children (age 12 and over) comprise a notable majority of cases demonstrating deep income inadequacy; 65 of the 76 deep inadequacy cases are households with at least one older child.

The incidence of deep income inadequacy for the cases with older children is reducing. In 2020 there were 72 cases of deep inadequacy amongst the household compositions with at least one older child, in 2021 this has reduced to 65. The €5 increase in the QCI for children aged 12 and over has contributed to this reduction in 2021.

However, it remains the case that when a household with an older child does not demonstrate deep income inadequacy, it is due to either the presence of younger children (which have a lower MESL

¹ See Cost of a Child, page 25, for further discussion, and Table 4.

cost and offset some of the additional cost associated with older children), or it is a two adult headed household.

Single adult headed households

Deep income inadequacy is also found to be associated with single adult headed households, when of working-age and dependent on social welfare. The MESL analysis finds that one adult headed households demonstrate a greater rate of income inadequacy and deep income inadequacy than two adult headed households. This is also reflected in SILC data, showing that the households compositions with the highest rates of at-risk-of-poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty are lone parent and working-age single adult household compositions.^{xiv}

The current structure of the social welfare system implicitly regards a couple as requiring 1.66 times the income support of a single headed household. Analysis of the MESL data finds that the minimum needs² of the adult in a couple headed cost 1.5 times that of an equivalent one adult headed household with children.

This is not because the second adult consumes less than the first, but instead that there are significant economies of scale available to two adult households which reduce the relative cost of the second adult in the household. For example, there are notable economies of scale in the costs of running a home, in the areas of home energy, household services and household goods costs for two adult headed households compared to one adult headed households. This finding has been observed not only in Ireland but also in other countries with developed minimum budget standards research, a recent paper examines the situation in Ireland, the UK, France and Portugal.^{xv}

One parent household compositions

One parent household compositions demonstrate the greatest rate of deep income inadequacy, and the highest rate of older child deep income inadequacy. Unlike in households headed by two adults, there is also a notable incidence of deep income inadequacy in One Parent households with only younger children.

One Parent household compositions also show a greater depth of income inadequacy. In all cases examined, comparing equivalent compositions of child age and household size, One Parent households demonstrate a deeper level of income inadequacy than an equivalent Two Parent composition.

There are seven One Parent compositions which show a situation where social welfare supports meet less than 75% of the household's MESL needs. There is only one Two Parent composition, amongst the cases examined, which demonstrates this situation.

Households with children

The improvements to the Qualified Child Increase (QCI) for both younger and older children in 2021, of €2 for under 12's and €5 for children age 12 and over has improved the level of income

² Based on urban MESL expenditure need, adjusted for Medical Card, and housing based on differential rent.

support for social welfare dependent households with children. However, as the standard adult Personal Rate has remained unchanged for three years, the impact of QCI adjustments is limited. Child poverty and income inadequacy can only be fully addressed when the minimum needs of the entire household are considered.

Nevertheless, the adjustments to the Qualified Child Increase will act as a partial buffer against rising costs for social welfare dependent households with children, particularly when combined with the increase in Fuel Allowance (increased by €3.50 per week) for long-term social welfare recipients.

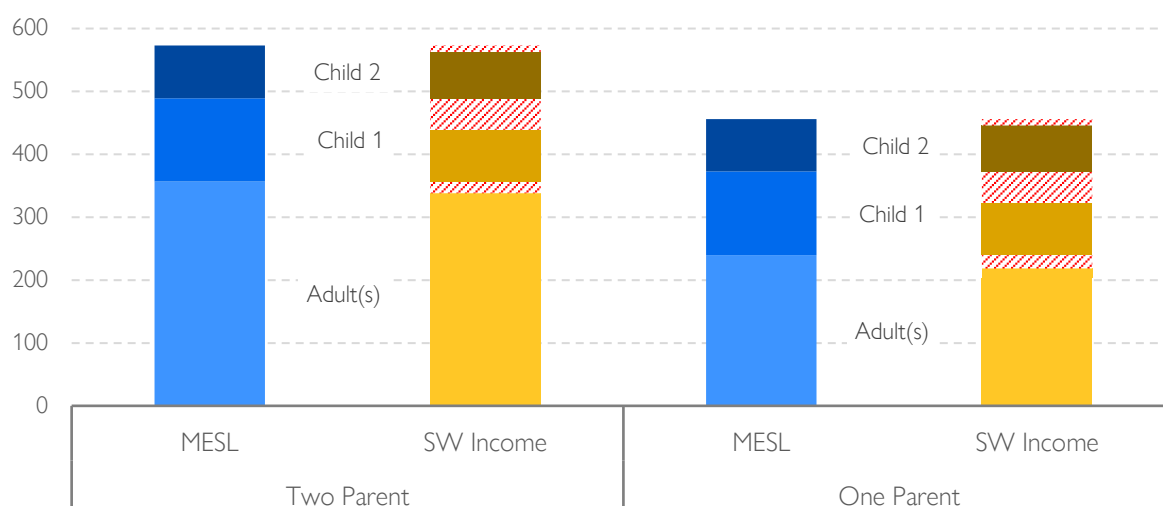
These income changes have seen household income increase by 0.5% and 2.4% (depending on household composition) for the set of social welfare dependent households illustrated in Graph 2. While the cost of an MESL has also increased for these household types in 2021, the rate of increase has generally been less than the increase in social welfare supports. Consequently, the position of the majority of households with children examined has improved, at least marginally.

The household composition with two younger children, pre-school and primary school age (labelled TP2a and OP2a in Graph 2), is approaching income adequacy in the context of a Two Parent and One Parent household type. In 2020 social welfare provided an income which met 98.6% and 97.1% of MESL needs respectively. The improved rates of social welfare support in 2021 have reduced the gap between income and MESL need further, with social welfare providing for 99.2% and 91.7% of needs.

The extension of the 'Christmas Bonus' to those in receipt of a qualifying social welfare support for four months (reduced from the previous 15-month requirement), has the potential to bring a notable increase to average weekly incomes. Incorporating this additional measure would see the Two Parent composition with two younger children, move to marginal income adequacy in 2021. The inclusion of the 'Christmas Bonus' in the calculation brings the One Parent household types average weekly income to 99.6% of MESL need.

However, as discussed above households with older children and households headed by one adult show the greatest rate of deep income inadequacy. The household compositions with an older child, illustrated in Graph 2 continue to demonstrate deep income inadequacy in 2021.

Graph 4 Two Parent & One Parent household with two children (primary and second-level school age), MESL expenditure need and Social Welfare income



Comparing the Two Parent and One Parent household types with a primary school and second level age child (labelled TP2b and OP2b), social welfare supports provide for 86.1% and 81.2% of MESL need respectively. Graph 4 illustrates the situation of these two cases, the MESL costs for the head of household (adults) including differential rent, and the expenditure required to meet the direct needs of the second level (child 1) and primary level (child 2) children are outlined in the MESL column. These are compared to the social welfare income^{xvi} distinguishing the child related income supports from the adult rates (and Fuel Allowance in the case of the One Parent household).

The graph demonstrates that the social welfare supports fall short at each level. This is the case for the child related supports, as detailed in the Cost of A Child section (page 23). The social welfare supports also fall short of meeting the minimum needs of the adult(s) and adequately providing for household related costs such as rent and energy. In the Two Parent household, the Jobseeker's Allowance and the Qualified Adult rates, meet 94.7% of these minimum needs. In the One Parent household, One-Parent Family Payment / Jobseeker's Transitional and Fuel Allowance, meet 90.9% of minimum needs.

The inadequacy of current social welfare supports to meet each aspect of minimum needs is apparent, with the cumulative result of deep income inadequacy in both cases.

While the 'Christmas Bonus' has the potential to bring additional support (an average of €8.09 and €5.50 per week for the Two Parent and One Parent compositions, respectively), it is not enough to bring household income out of deep income inadequacy.

Working-Age Adults, no dependent children

Working age households and individuals without children, also show income inadequacy when dependent on social welfare.

A working-age single adult household type demonstrates deep income inadequacy, with a full Jobseekers payment meeting 80.6% of MESL expenditure need³, when living alone in an urban area. This represents a nominal income shortfall of €49 per week.

When in receipt of a Jobseekers payment for over 15 months, the Single Adult household may be eligible for the Christmas Bonus and the Fuel Allowance. These payments would contribute an additional €18.98^{xvii} average weekly income, over the year. This would bring household income to 88% of MESL expenditure need.

Housing costs

This scenario is based on private rented housing, renting within the current Rent Supplement (RS) / Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) limits for Dublin, and the housing cost is based on the tenant contribution required when in receipt of Rent Supplement. If the household is in a HAP tenancy and required to pay a rent top-up in addition to the differential rent component, the depth of inadequacy would be greater.

For example, the current RS / HAP rent limit in Dublin for a single person is €660 per month, average rents in Dublin for a one-bedroom unit were over €1,310 per month at the start of 2021. Taking 90% of the average as a benchmark, €1,183 per month, the rent limit falls €523 short per month. The limit may be increased by up to 20%, on a case-by-case basis, bringing shortfall to €391 per month.

Under HAP the tenant pays a differential rent, calculated on the basis of income. In the Dublin City Council area, the rent payable by a single person in receipt of the full rate of Jobseekers is €25.60 per week. Additionally, the tenant must pay the difference between the HAP rent limit and actual market rent payable for their accommodation.

Based on the housing costs above, a full rate of Jobseeker's would provide for 55% to 60% of MESL expenditure need. In the case of a long-term social welfare recipient, the additional supports would bring this to 61% to 66%. In all cases income would be significantly below the actual expenditure required for an acceptable minimum standard of living.

Young Adults

Lower rates of Jobseekers Allowance (JA) for young adults were first introduced in 2009, for under 20s, and extended to further age-groups in subsequent years. Currently a reduced rate of JA (€112.70) is payable to adults aged 18 – 24. Eligibility for the full Personal Rate (€203 per week) of JA was restored to 25 years olds in 2020. The full personal rate also applies for younger adults (18 – 24) with dependent children, or when living independently and in receipt of state housing support.

The cost of an MESL for an unemployed young adult living in the parental family home (and qualifying for a full medical card) is estimated to be €153 per week.

³ Based on urban MESL costs (adjusted to reflect secondary benefits) and net housing costs when in receipt of Rent Supplement.

The rate payable to adults aged 18 – 24 has stood at €112.70 since 2019. This rate of payment meets approximately 75% of urban MESL need, in the context of the adult continuing to live in the parental family home. An individual in this scenario requires significant financial support from their family to afford an MESL.

Older People

Enhancements to the State Pension rate up to 2019 improved the position of all household types with older people dependent on the State Pension examined in the MESL analysis. Further improvements to secondary supports, including the Fuel Allowance and Living Alone Allowance, have made significant contributions towards income adequacy for the household types examined.

Older Couple, Pension Age

The Pensioner Couple household type remains in a position of income adequacy. For an urban based household the combined effect of a modest decrease in MESL costs and improvement to income (arising from increased Fuel Allowance) increases the degree of discretionary income above the MESL expenditure need floor. In the case of rural based households, increases in transport and home energy costs have contributed to an increase in minimum living costs, consequently there has been a slight narrowing in the level of discretionary income remaining after MESL needs are met.

For the Pensioner Couple household, in social housing, the contributory state pension and qualified adult payment (combined with secondary supports) provide an income that is 31% above the MESL floor need in an urban area, this reduces to 3% in a rural area. The degree of income above the MESL floor increases when the household is in receipt of two state pensions, e.g. with a Contributory & Non-Contributory pension net income is 54% above the MESL floor need in an urban area and 22% in a rural area.

Older Person, Pension Age, Living Alone

The MESL expenditure need of the single older person is approximately 75% that of the older couple household. However, household income from State Pension (and secondary supports) for a pensioner living alone, is between 55% and 66% of a pensioner couple household's income.

The older person living alone household type has tended to demonstrate greater vulnerability to income inadequacy. In 2017 an urban pensioner living alone household type moved to income adequacy when reliant on the Non-Contributory Pension and living in social housing; the first time since 2010.

The Living Alone Allowance makes a vital contribution towards supporting the group of older people which have a higher risk of poverty and have tended to demonstrate income inadequacy. The €5 increases to the Living Alone Allowance in both 2020 and 2021 were significant improvements. These built on the previous 2015 increase in the Living Alone Allowance and introduction of the Telephone Support Allowance in 2018.

In 2021, the improved rates of payment have added an average €6.89 per week to household income for an older person living alone. The Non-Contributory Pension, and secondary supports,

now provide an income that is 6.6% above the MESL need when in an urban area and living in social housing. In the case of the Contributory Pension, net household income is 10.3% above urban MESL need.

Deep income inadequacy continues for the older person living alone household type when in a rural area. Due to additional needs in a rural area, primarily transport, the Non-Contributory State Pension (and secondary supports) meet only 83.2% of MESL costs for a rural older person living alone^{xviii}

Rural difference

Households in rural areas have different and additional needs to meet the same socially acceptable minimum standard of living as households based in urban areas. Core MESL costs (before housing) are generally higher in rural areas, primarily due to additional costs related to transport and home energy.

The core urban MESL costs include transport related costs based on the use of public transport. For rural households private transport is a minimum need, as public transport options are limited and do not tend to offer an adequate level of service to rely on to meet all transport needs.

The free travel pass removes the need for private transport related costs for urban based pensioner households, in the MESL expenditure budgets. Meeting the transport needs of rural pensioner households requires a car. Consequently, car related costs (fuel, maintenance, insurance, etc.) add an additional €67 per week to the MESL budget for a lone pensioner in a rural area.

Household energy costs for rural household types assume the use of home heating oil, for urban household types it is assumed that natural gas is used for home heating. The MESL analysis has generally found that heating the home using oil is more expensive than using natural gas^{xix}. This differential has been exacerbated in 2021 as home energy priced for urban households have changed marginally while home heating oil prices have increased notably.

Other areas of additional expense for rural based MESL household budgets, include higher waste charges and additional food costs due to less proximity to large supermarkets, requiring greater use of small local shops (in addition to supermarkets) in comparison to urban household budgets.

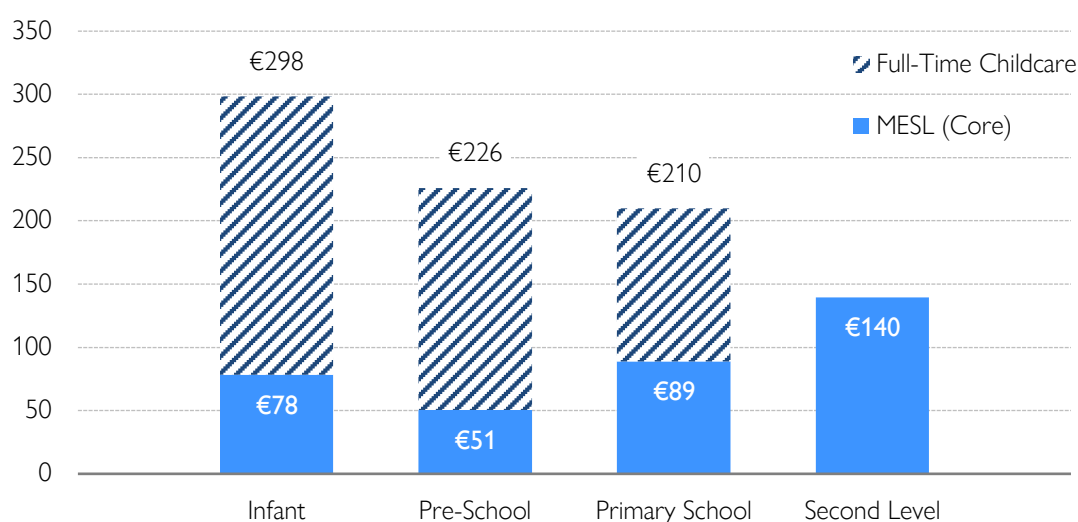
However, it must be noted, that basic health costs (e.g. GP visits) and childcare costs are lower in the rural MESL household budgets. Furthermore, when comparing household scenarios based on market rents (as opposed to social housing) overall rural MESL costs tend to be notably lower than the equivalent household in an urban area.

Cost of a Child

A child's needs vary with age, to reflect this the MESL data defines four child age-groups and identifies the direct MESL cost at each stage of childhood.

The direct cost of a child is based on expenditure needs which can be attributed solely to a child and excludes wider household costs. A family household has different minimum requirements compared to a household without children, due to various needs associated with family life. These wider costs which are not specific to a particular child or age-group but instead are applicable to households with children independent of age-group, are included in the parental head of household MESL baskets.

Graph 5 Direct Cost of a Child's MESL by child age group, per week
Excludes the effect of secondary benefits



The cost of a child's core MESL expenditure (excluding the effect of secondary benefits) ranges from €51 at pre-school age to €140 for children of second level school age.

The MESL core cost is highest for older children, aged 12 and over. Meeting an older child's core MESL needs costs an average of €140 per week, this reduces to €133 where a household is eligible for a full Medical Card. This is 60% higher than the cost of minimum needs for younger children.

Within the core MESL costs food is the largest category of expenditure for each age-group. This is followed by clothing costs for an infant, while social inclusion costs are the second largest area for the other age-groups.

Social inclusion is a significant area of minimum expenditure need. The makeup of the social inclusion basket varies by age-group, but it includes participating in age appropriate sports and activities (e.g. swimming, football, dance class), provision for a bicycle (tricycle for a pre-school child), toys, books, etc., providing opportunities for activities as a family with a budget for a number of outings (e.g. to the cinema, trip to the zoo, etc.), and to engage with friends (e.g. a primary school age child attending birthday parties). This basket category also includes the costs of a short holiday in Ireland, the child

related costs of which are included in each child age-group budget. The basket also includes a specific allocation for Christmas presents for the child and pocket money for school age children.

For school age children (primary and second level) education costs are the third largest area of expenditure. This education basket is comprised of school related costs including uniforms, school books, stationery, etc. Other school related costs, such as resource fees for photocopying, IT, etc., are included, as is the Voluntary Contribution. There are no school related education costs in the baskets for the younger age-groups, although toys, books and activities which are educational are included in the social inclusion category.

A computer, and associated costs, are included in the educational budget. As a single computer is included in the MESL basket for the household this cost is included in the parental budget rather than a child age-group budget.

For an infant, personal care is the third largest basket category. Nappies account for almost two-thirds of the personal care costs for this age-group, therefore personal care costs are highest for this age-group. As noted above, the cost of nappies, anti-bacterial wipes and milk formula increased in 2021, fuelling a 2.9% increase in minimum costs for an infant⁴ – the most notable increase across the four child age-groups.

Childcare

The cost of childcare has a significant impact on the cost of an MESL. When childcare is required, the overall MESL costs can be substantially higher for younger children than older children.

When full-time childcare is included, the overall MESL need is highest for an infant, with costs declining for each subsequent age group. MESL costs including full-time childcare⁵ are almost four and a half times the core MESL for a pre-school age child and over three and a half times the core MESL for an infant.

The inclusion of full-time childcare for children makes infancy the most expensive stage, with an average weekly MESL expenditure need of €298.

The net annual cost of urban full-time private childcare for an infant is over €11,400, after the reduction from the universal element of the NCS. The ECCE scheme reduces the cost of childcare for a pre-school age child, through the provision of a free pre-school place, the net annual cost of urban full-time care is over €9,100. Full-time childcare accounts for approximately three quarters of total MESL costs for these age groups.

The means tested element of the NCS scheme can potentially offset a significant portion of childcare costs for eligible households. The NCS subvention is applied, where appropriate, in the employed scenarios examined later in this report.

⁴ This increase is measured in the child costs excluding childcare, and adjusted for a full Medical Card.

⁵ Childcare costs are adjusted to include the universal NCS or the ECCE for infant and pre-school age children respectively.

Role of services

The universal provision of a GP Visit card for children under the age of six demonstrates how effective services can reduce minimum living costs. This support contributes to the (relatively) low MESL costs of younger children (infant and pre-school aged). Health costs for an older child (12 and over) are over three times that of the pre-school child. The progressive extension of free GP care to children in all age groups would contribute to lower MESL costs across all age groups.

Adequacy of Child Related Social Welfare Supports

Identifying the cost of a socially acceptable minimum standard of living for a child enables an assessment of the adequacy of child related social welfare supports.

The adequacy of the main child related payments typically available to a social welfare dependent household are benchmarked against the MESL core cost for each child age-group. The core cost is adjusted to reflect entitlement to a full Medical Card. Table 4 provides details of the average weekly income and assessment of adequacy.

Table 4 MESL by Child Age and child related social welfare adequacy

	Infant	Pre-School	Primary School	Second Level
MESL (core adj ⁶)	78.05	45.98	83.59	132.72
Child Benefit	32.31	32.31	32.31	32.31
Qualified Child Increase	38.00	38.00	38.00	45.00
Back to School Allowance	...	...	2.88	5.29
Total Social Welfare	70.31	70.31	73.19	82.60
% of MESL met by SW	90.1%	152.9%	87.6%	62.2%

The second level child, aged 12 and over, demonstrates the deepest inadequacy, with a significant gap between direct MESL costs and social welfare supports. However, incremental increases to the higher rate of QCI for older children are contributing to a progressive improvement in the level of MESL need met, from 58.6% in 2020 to 62.2% in 2021.

In recognition of older children's additional minimum needs a higher rate of Qualified Child Increase (QCI) for children aged 12 and over came into effect in 2019. This has been built on in subsequent years, representing a crucial evidence-based approach to social welfare adjustments. The importance of this measure will be in the steps which continue to build on it to progressively realise a social welfare system which adequately meets minimum needs.

The MESL costs are lowest at Pre-School age, and child related social welfare payments amount to 1½ times the cost of a pre-school child's MESL. The adequacy gap for household compositions that include a pre-school age child tends to be lowest, as the support above MESL need for pre-school children subsidises the inadequate support for others in the household. Consequently, a pre-school

⁶ Cost of a child's MESL, excluding childcare, adjusted for full Medical Card.

age child's MESL needs will not be adequately met if they are part of a household which faces income inadequacy.

The MESL expenditure need, as detailed, is the direct cost of a child as part of a family household. Therefore, the child's MESL needs and income adequacy must ultimately be assessed in the context of the overall household minimum needs. It cannot be assumed the child has adequate income supports if they are part of a household which as a whole has an inadequate income; even if the cost of a child's MESL expenditure is in principle adequately provided for by child social welfare. Child poverty and income inadequacy can only be fully addressed when the minimum needs of the entire household are considered.

Employment

This section examines minimum expenditure need and income adequacy in employed scenarios. The analysis benchmarks the adequacy of the National Minimum Wage, and relevant social welfare supports, for full-time and part-time employment scenarios.

The analysis assesses total household income against each of the household compositions' total MESL cost (including housing) adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card). Household income is comprised of salary after tax (PAYE, USC & PRSI), and applicable social welfare supports, primarily Child Benefit, Working Family Payment, the One-Parent Family Payment or Jobseekers Transitional.

Where a household's net income is below the expenditure required for an MESL, it indicates that households of this type would have to forgo items deemed essential in order to make ends meet, and therefore would not be able to live at an acceptable minimum standard and fully partake in the norms of Irish life. In these cases, the Minimum Income Standard^{xx} (MIS) gross salary required for the household to afford an MESL is calculated.

The discussion in this section focuses primarily on urban-based households. Housing costs are based on differential rent (social housing) for all households with children. The effect of the Housing Assistance Payment, impact of top-up rents, and the additional minimum income need of households with children paying a market rent are also discussed. The working age (without children) single adult and couple household types' housing costs are based on private rented accommodation, renting a one-bedroom dwelling in the Dublin area at 90% of the average monthly rent.

For households with children, income adequacy is assessed for a range of employment scenarios, and applicable childcare costs are included in each scenario. The calculations assess possible eligibility for the National Childcare Scheme and adjust childcare costs as applicable (for children up to primary school age^{xxi}).

The employment scenarios examined are listed below. In all cases full-time employment is based on 37.5 paid hours per week and part-time employment is based on 19 paid hours per week.⁷

Two Parents	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay-at-home	One Parent	Part-Time
Two Parents	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	One Parent	Full-Time
Two Parents	2 Full-Time		
Single Adult	Full-Time	Couple	Both Full-Time

National Minimum Wage & Minimum Income Standard

Employment improves household income in comparison to social welfare alone, when secure and stable hours are available. However, the provision of effective in-work supports, and access to

⁷ The employed income scenarios, for the ten working age household compositions, are detailed in the appendix, Tables 8A to 24A.

services and supports such as affordable childcare and rents, are vital to enabling minimum adequacy at a salary level at or near the minimum wage.

For households with children all but three of the cases examined demonstrate income adequacy, when reliable and adequate hours of minimum wage employment are combined with in-work social welfare supports and services which effectively reduce the cost of an MESL. This assessment is based on the households having access to social housing paying a differential rent. The National Childcare Scheme is also included, where applicable.

This is in effect a “best case” scenario. Where these assumptions do not hold true there is the potential for both the cost of an MESL to be greater or for income to be lower. Consequently, there is the potential for an adequacy gap between income and expenditure need. This is demonstrated below when the same scenarios are examined with housing costs based on HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) rather than social housing. In these scenarios, ten cases demonstrate income inadequacy due to higher housing costs.

The discussion below highlights facets of the minimum wage adequacy analysis and Minimum Income Standard calculations, which demonstrate the core issues: services are vital in supporting households to income adequacy, in conjunction with secure employment, but an appropriate minimum rate of pay and well-designed income supports are also crucial.

This is evident in the situation of a single working-age household type, where access to a differential rent can result in income adequacy at a notably lower salary rate than when paying a market rent. However, in either case the current NMW is inadequate.

Setting an appropriate wage floor is essential, to address the needs of those without dependent children, and to set a reasonable floor for other social support mechanisms to work from. Well designed in-work income supports and services which reduce living costs, must work effectively in conjunction with an appropriate minimum wage rate to enable households with children to achieve an MESL when in employment.

The analysis for households with children examines the efficacy of current measures, and the interaction of these supports with earnings at and above the national minimum wage. Demonstrating the importance of both support with housing costs, through access to social housing, and support with childcare costs, currently through the ECCE and National Childcare Scheme (NCS).

Single Adult

In 2021 the National Minimum Wage (NMW) was increased by €0.10 to €10.20 per hour, an adjustment of 1%. This has increased the gross weekly salary of a full-time (37.5 hours) minimum wage employee by €3.75 per week. The additional PAYE, PRSI and USC liable on this salary reduces the net gain to €2.15 (0.6%). The Marginal Effective Tax Rate on the NMW increase is 42.7%, for a full-time worker.

The cost of an MESL basket for an urban single adult in full-time minimum wage employment increased by 2.6% from 2020 to 2021. Within this rise in minimum expenditure need 0.4 percentage

points are attributable to increased prices in the core MESL basket⁸, however the remaining 2.2 percentage points are due to rising rents. Housing costs increased by 4.2% for this household type (in Dublin) between 2020 and 2021, when paying 90% of average market rent for a one bed dwelling in the Dublin area.

In 2020 full-time NMW employment would have provided for 73.3% of the MESL needs of a working-age single adult living alone in Dublin, paying 90% of average rent. If rents had remained at 2020 levels the modest increase to the NMW in 2021 would have offset the rise in non-housing MESL costs and marginally reduced the depth of potential income inadequacy (with NMW net salary meeting 73.5% of MESL need).

However, in 2021 the increase in housing costs has resulted in the inadequacy of a full-time minimum wage salary deepening, with an income shortfall of €140 per week. The NMW will provide for only 71.8% of this household's MESL expenditure need, compared to 73.3% in 2020.

Housing Assistance Payment

If this household type were in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) the total cost of an MESL (including housing) could be notably lower. Under HAP the tenant pays a differential rent, calculated on the basis of income. Additionally, the tenant must pay the difference between the HAP rent limit and actual market rent payable for their accommodation.

In Dublin the current rent limit for a single person is €660 per month. Average rents in Dublin for a one-bedroom unit are €1,315 per month. Taking 90% of the average as a benchmark for MESL rental costs, €1,183 per month, the rent limit falls over €520 short.

In a scenario where this household is in a HAP tenancy, paying a differential rent (€48.70 per week) and a further top-up direct to the landlord (€120.75 per week), the overall cost of an MESL would be over €100 less. As a result, salary from full-time minimum wage employment would meet 90.8% of MESL expenditure need.

Minimum Income Standard

To meet the cost of an MESL in 2021, a single adult would need a gross weekly salary of €611 per week, when living in private rented housing in the Dublin area. This Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is 60% higher than the gross salary from minimum wage employment. It equates to 60 hours of minimum wage employment per week.

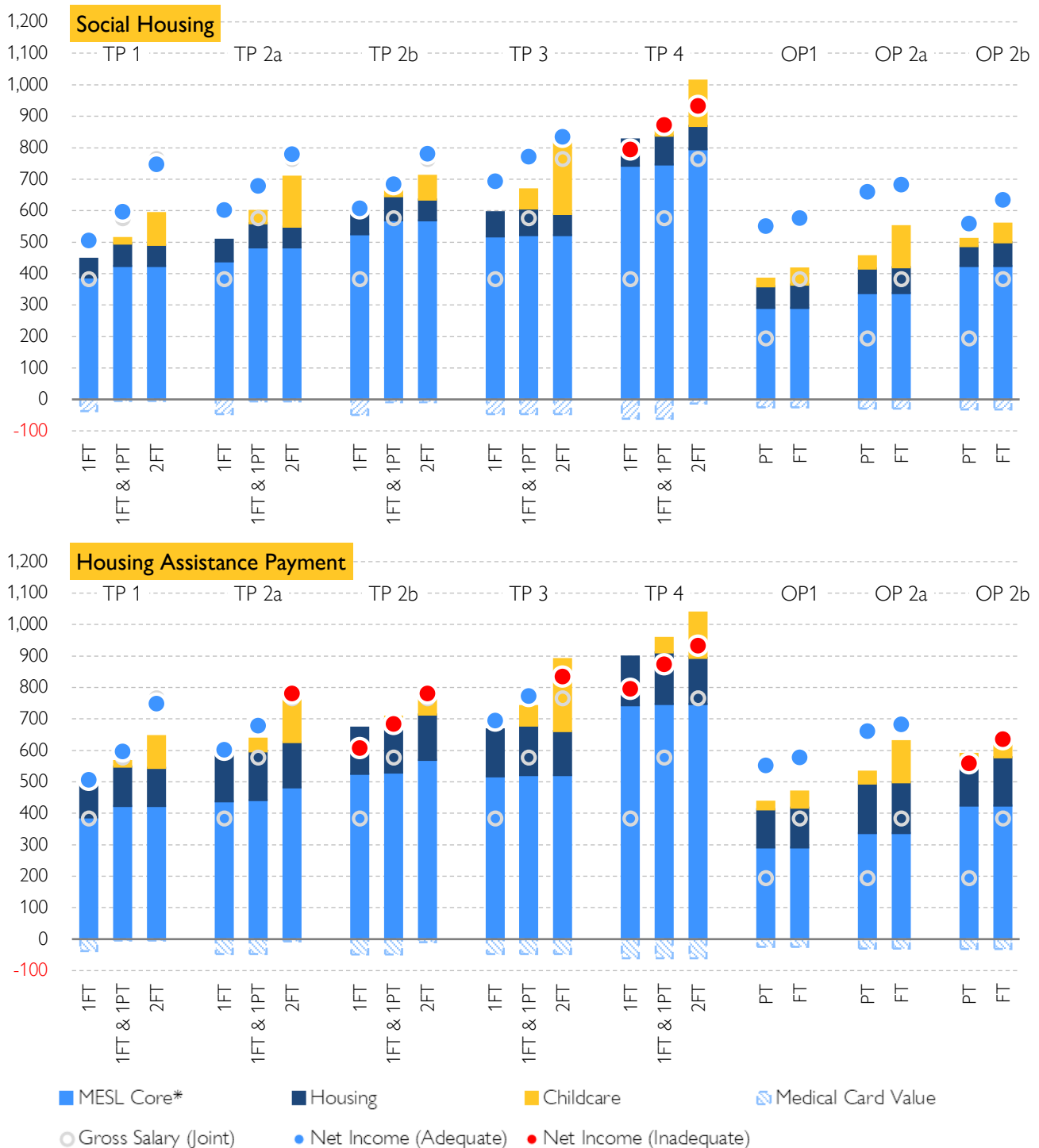
In a scenario where this household is in a HAP tenancy, the single adult would require a MIS gross salary of €480 per week (€12.80 per hour) 25% above the current National Minimum Wage.

⁸ Based on the urban working-age single adult basket, adjusted for entitlement to a full medical card. As discussed in above, page 12, the rate of change varies by household type, scenario and region.

Households with Children

The discussion in the following pages elaborate on the results of the employed income scenarios^{xxii} for eight household compositions with children when earning the National Minimum Wage (NMW), as illustrated in Graph 6.

Graph 6 National Minimum Wage adequacy benchmark, household types with children, Social Housing and Housing Assistance Payment scenarios



Minimum wage rates cannot be expected to address income inadequacy in isolation. Rates of pay, including the minimum wage, cannot take account of household composition, number of people dependent on a wage, etc. Social supports must work in conjunction with an (appropriately set) minimum wage floor, to smooth out such additional and different needs.

This section examines the degree to which the current suite of supports available to households with children enable income adequacy when earning the minimum wage. This includes direct income supports such as Working Family Payment (WFP) and One-Parent Family Payment (OFP), and also supports which reduce MESL expenditure need, including access to affordable housing through social housing or the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), support with childcare costs through the National Childcare Scheme (NCS), and the Medical Card.

Two Parents and One Child, Baby

TP 1

This household type has an adequate income when engaged in minimum wage employment, when in social housing and paying a differential rent or in private rented accommodation and in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). This is the case when engaged in either single full-time employment with the other parent engaged in caring duties at home full-time, or in dual income scenarios.

If the household did not have access to a differential rent (or HAP) and was instead paying a market rent, the NMW would not provide the basis of an adequate income with a weekly shortfall of at least €88. To enable an MESL, the household type's MIS gross salary requirement is €514 per week, per adult (equivalent to €3.50 per hour above the NMW).

Two Parents, Two Children, Pre-School & Primary School Age

TP 2a

This household composition also demonstrates income adequacy in each of the three NMW employment scenarios examined, when in social housing.

Due to the tapering of Working Family Payment (WFP) and income eligibility thresholds for the Medical Card, the scenarios with greater levels of employment demonstrate a lower level of adequacy compared to the scenario with one adult engaged in employment.

The household type would be eligible for Working Family Payment and a full Medical Card, when one adult is in full-time NMW employment and the second is either in part-time NMW employment or not employed. However, if both adults are engaged in full-time NMW employment the household is not eligible for WFP, and will not be eligible for a full Medical Card qualifying for a GP Visit Card instead.

In a HAP scenario with both adults in full-time NMW employment housing costs are €144 per week^{xxiii}, €78 higher than in the social housing scenario. In this scenario, the higher housing costs and ineligibility for WFP and Medical Card, result in a marginal income shortfall. To enable an MESL, the household type's MIS gross salary requirement would be €394 per week, per adult (equivalent to a rate €0.30 per hour above the NMW).

If the household were paying a market rent, the MIS gross salary requirement of this composition would be €585 per week per adult (equivalent to €5.40 per hour above the NMW).

Two Parents, Two Children, Primary School & Second Level Age

TP 2b

This household composition includes an older child. When reliant on social welfare household's with older children are more vulnerable to deep income inadequacy, as was the case for this household composition when discussed above. When in NMW employment, in the three working pattern scenarios examined, this composition demonstrates income adequacy when in social housing.

When in a HAP tenancy the additional housing costs arising from a rent 'top-up' combined with the additional MESL costs for an older child, lead to income inadequacy being found in the three scenarios examined. In a HAP scenario with both adults in full-time NMW employment, the household composition's MIS gross salary requirement would be €394 per week, per adult (equivalent to a rate €0.30 per hour above the NMW). In a scenario where the household was paying market rent the household composition's MIS gross salary requirement would be €581 per week, per adult (equivalent to €5.30 per hour above the NMW).

Two Parents, Three Children, Infant, Pre-School & Primary School Age

TP 3

This household composition also demonstrates income adequacy in each of the three NMW employment scenarios examined, when in social housing.

In the scenario with both adults engaged in full-time NMW employment net income is only 2% above MESL need, when in social housing. In a HAP tenancy, the additional housing costs would lead to inadequacy, with income meeting 94% of MESL need, leaving a shortfall of €56 per week. This is despite the household being eligible for Working Family Payment (WFP) of €20 per week.

In a HAP scenario with both adults in full-time NMW employment, the household composition's MIS gross salary requirement would be €525 per week, per adult (equivalent to a rate €3.80 per hour above the NMW). The loss of eligibility for WFP at a weekly gross salary of €408 per adult, contributes to the degree of earnings above NMW required to achieve an income which will provide for MESL needs.

If the household did not have access to a differential rent (or HAP) and was instead paying a full market rent, household income from dual NMW employment would be inadequate with a weekly shortfall of €288. To enable an MESL, the household type's MIS gross salary requirement would be €844 per week, per adult (equivalent to €12.30 per hour above the NMW).

Two Parents, Four Children, Two Primary & Two Second Level Age

TP4

Unlike the previous household compositions examined, in this case NMW employment does not provide the basis of an adequate income in any of the three employment scenarios examined. Due to the size of the household, four children, eligibility for Working Family Payment is retained in each of three employment situations. However, WFP does not provide adequate support to build up the NMW earnings to an adequate income for the household's minimum needs. When in dual full-time minimum wage employment, net household income would meet 92% of MESL need when in social housing, and 90% of MESL need when in a HAP tenancy.

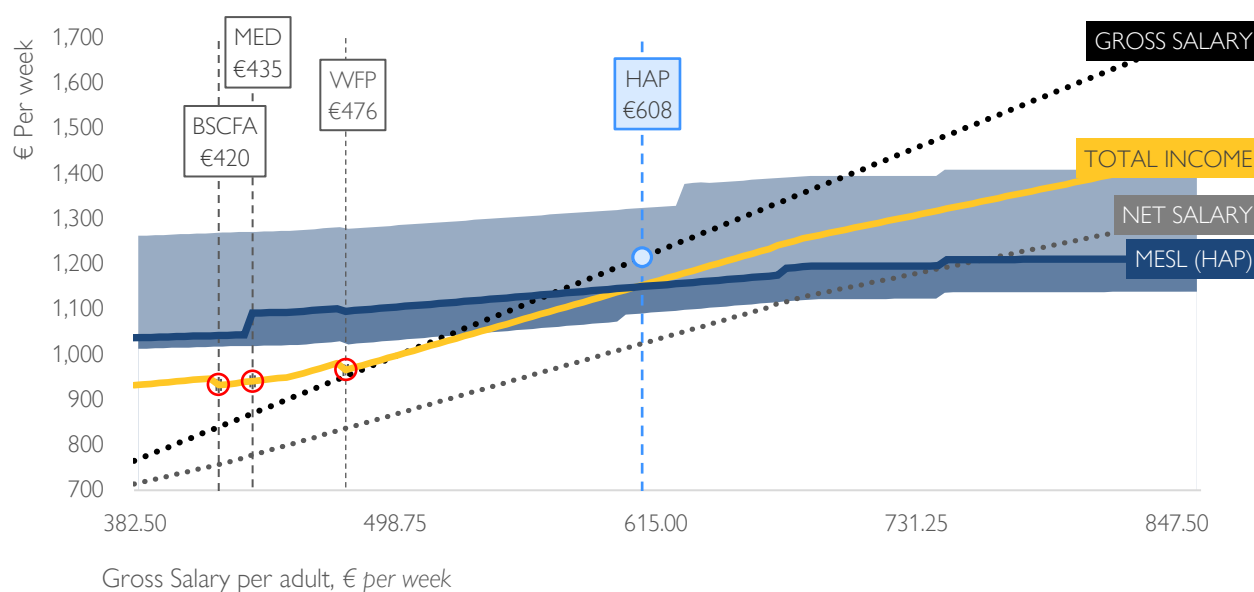
When earning the NMW full-time (€382 per adult) the household would be eligible for a full medical card, if in a HAP tenancy. The medical card reduces the potential health related MESL costs by an average of €61 per week. Furthermore, the household would qualify for a contribution from the

National Childcare Scheme, reducing potential childcare costs by an average of €98.60 per week. Additionally, Working Family Payment and the Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance would provide an average of €87 per week in direct income support.

As earnings increase both Working Family Payment and the National Childcare Scheme subvention are tapered. Furthermore, the differential rent component of HAP will increase with household income, and the Medical Card means test will result in withdrawal of eligibility at a certain income level.

Due to the degree of tapering and withdrawal of eligibility of supports, earnings significantly above the NMW are required to close the adequacy gap for this household composition. The household composition's MIS weekly gross salary requirement would be €536 per adult when in social housing, rising to €608 when in a HAP tenancy.

Graph 7 Income Progression, from dual NMW to MIS (HAP scenario)



The income progression for this household type is examined in detail below and illustrated in Graph 7. The focus is on the HAP tenancy scenario, but the impact of the tapering and withdrawal of supports prior to reaching income adequacy is similar in the social housing scenario also. To demonstrate the effect of housing tenure and access to support with housing costs, the difference in total MESL need is highlighted in the shaded area of the chart, with access to social housing reducing MESL need below that of the HAP scenario and while needing to pay a full market rent would substantially increase the cost of an MESL for this household type.

The key weekly gross salary (per adult) points where entitlements fall away, for this household scenario, are outlined below:

- €420 The household would not qualify for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, the level of Working Family Payment is reduced.
Compared to earning the NMW, gross salary has increased by €75 per week but net income has increased by only €0.65, a Marginal Effective Tax Rate (METR) of 99%.
- €435 The household would not be eligible for a full Medical Card, qualifying for a GP Visit Card instead. Consequently, MESL expenditure need is higher, and income inadequacy at this earnings level is €151 short of minimum needs (compared to €105 shortfall when earning the NMW).
- €476 The household would not be eligible for the Working Family Payment.
Income inadequacy at this earnings level is €129 short of MESL needs, deeper than when earning the NMW.
- €536 If in social housing and paying a differential rent, this gross salary would provide the basis of an adequate income.
When in a HAP tenancy, household income is inadequate at this point with an income shortfall of €63 per week.
- €608 This gross salary would provide the basis of an adequate income, with both adults in full-time employment, when in a HAP tenancy scenario.
The household would remain eligible for a GP Visit Card at this income level and continue to qualify for support for childcare fees with a subvention averaging €39 per week.

Dual full-time minimum wage employment did not provide an adequate income for this household type, leaving a weekly shortfall of €80 to €105 per week, in the social housing and HAP scenarios examined respectively. The above demonstrates that to close that income adequacy gap, earnings of 40% to 59% above the NMW are required, as eligibility for supports such as WFP and Medical Card fall away before an adequate income level is reached. In a situation where the household is paying a market rent, the MIS gross salary requirement of the household composition would be €829 per week, per adult – more than double the current NMW.

One Parent, One Child, Primary School Age

OP 1

This household type has an adequate income when engaged in minimum wage employment, when in social housing and paying a differential rent or in private rented accommodation and in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). This is the case when engaged in part-time employment (with the assumption of 19 hours employment available) or full-time employment.

If the household did not have access to a differential rent (or HAP) and was instead paying a market rent, the MIS gross salary requirement of the household composition would be €776 per week. This would be the full-time equivalent to an hourly rate of €20.70 (€10.50 above the current NMW).

One Parent, Two Children, Pre-School & Primary School Age

OP 2a

This household type also has an adequate income when engaged in minimum wage employment, when in social housing and paying a differential rent or in private rented accommodation and in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

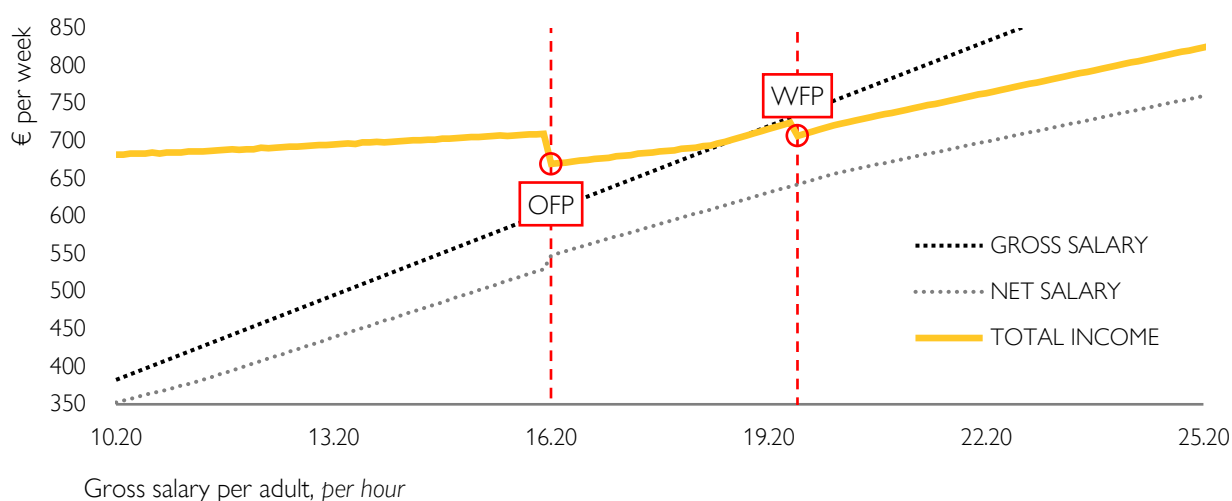
When in full-time employment the support with childcare costs provided through the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) is also crucial for enabling income adequacy. Without the NCS subvention full-time NMW employment would not provide the basis of an adequate income in either housing scenario.

The welcome removal of the €425 gross salary income limit for the OFP, in April 2021 saw the end of the ‘guillotine’ effect in the eligibility criteria and addressed a long-standing issue which contributed to the creation of a significant ‘poverty trap’. In the case of this household type, when the €425 income limit was in place earnings just above this level resulted in a household income that was over €65 lower than when earning a full-time minimum wage salary. Furthermore, the trough in net household income would not recover to minimum wage levels until a gross salary of approximately €650 per week.

The removal of this ‘guillotine’ enables retention of OFP, subject to means-test and tapering, at salaries above €425 per week. This smooths the income progression and ensures that there is a net benefit to improved earnings for households in this situation.

The income trough has now been shifted to a higher income point where means tested eligibility for OFP is lost, as illustrated in Graph 8. The potential loss of OFP, including Qualified Child Increase (QCI), and Fuel Allowance and the Christmas Bonus, combine to create a significant income trough. While the Back to Work Family Dividend may mitigate the severity of this trough, it is a time-limited and conditional support that may not apply in all cases.

Graph 8 Income Progression for One Parent & Two Child household in NMW employment



The social housing and HAP scenarios show income adequacy at the NMW for this household type, an income level that is not impacted by the above issues with the OFP withdrawal point. Nevertheless, the structure of OFP and ancillary supports results in a situation where it is possible that earning a higher gross salary, in this case €605 to €650 per week, will result in a lower net household income than that available from full-time NMW employment.

If the household did not have access to a differential rent (or HAP) and was instead paying a market rent, the MIS gross salary requirement of the household composition would be €1,106 per week. This would be the full-time equivalent to an hourly rate of €29.50 (€19.30 above the current NMW).

One Parent, Two Children, Primary School & Second Level Age

OP 2b

When in social housing and paying a differential rent this household type demonstrates income adequacy when in part-time or full-time NMW employment. However, when in a HAP tenancy the additional housing costs (a €78 per week rent 'top-up') compound the additional MESL costs for an older child, and lead to income inadequacy being found in both employment scenarios.

In the full-time NMW employment scenario examined, the household would be eligible for direct income support through the Jobseeker's Transitional (JST) payment, also receiving Fuel Allowance and the Christmas Bonus, providing an average of €200 per week in means-tested targeted income supports, in addition to Child Benefit. Further measures reducing household costs, include both the Medical Card and the NCS which would provide an average subvention of €62 per week towards childcare costs. These supports, in conjunction with full-time NMW earnings almost amount to an adequate income, meeting 99.7% of MESL need in the HAP scenario. In this scenario, the household composition's MIS gross salary requirement would be €394 per week, per adult (equivalent to a rate €0.30 per hour above the NMW).

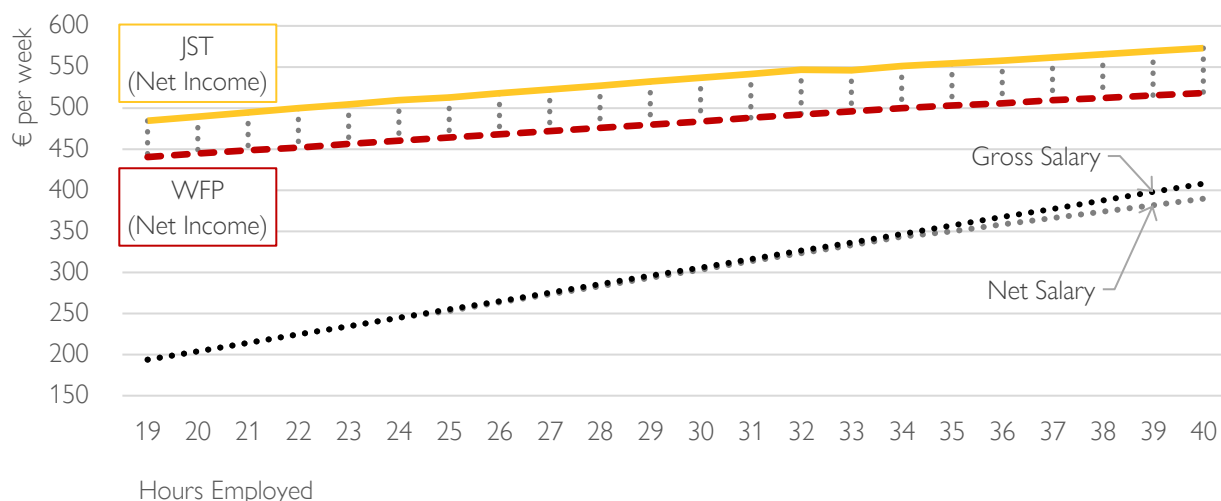
If the household did not have access to a differential rent (or HAP) and was instead paying a market rent, the MIS gross salary requirement of the household composition would be €1,061 per week. This would be the full-time equivalent to an hourly rate of €28.30 (€18.10 above the current NMW).

Jobseekers Transitional and Working Family Payment

Unlike the OFP the JST payment cannot be claimed in conjunction with the Working Family Payment (WFP). When the JST was initially introduced it was often the case that where enough working hours were available WFP would provide a greater level of support than JST. This situation has changed as adjustments to the JST earnings disregard and increases to the QCI rates have improved the level of income support provided by JST.

When the youngest child in a one parent household reaches 14, the household is no longer eligible for JST creating the potential for a notable drop in net household income. JST and associated secondary benefits can provide a greater level of income support than WFP, for the same salary level. For example, in the case of a one parent household with one child, when in 19 hours of minimum wage employment JST net income is €44 higher than a WFP scenario. This difference increases to €53 with full-time (37.5 hour) minimum wage employment.

Graph 9 Comparing Net Income from Jobseekers Transitional and Working Family Payment, One Parent & One Child household type, by hours NMW employment



The tapering and withdrawal of income supports combined with increasing liability for USC and PRSI, impose a higher Marginal Effective Tax Rate (METR) in the case of WFP than in JST. The METR on a change from part-time (19 hours) to full-time (37.5 hours) employment is 63% when in receipt of Working Family Payment and 58% when in receipt of the Jobseeker's Transitional.

The WFP scenario does not assume entitlement to the Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD). However, it should be noted that the BTWFD could reduce this differential, effectively equalising net income at 20 hours of minimum wage employment – for this household composition. At employment of over 20 hours the JST would continue to provide a higher net income. However, the BTWFD is a limited support and is only paid at the full QCI rate for the first 12 months of eligibility, due to this it is not included in this analysis.

Conclusion

The MESL consensual budget standards research contributes a unique indicator to the debate on what constitutes a socially acceptable minimum level for a life with dignity. It provides a unique body of evidence to shine a light on what is needed to avoid poverty, enable social inclusion, and a to live a life with dignity. In this way, it is a practical operationalisation of the concepts which underpin the Irish Government definition of poverty and social inclusion, the human right to an adequate standard of living, and the key principle set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights that all have a right to an adequate minimum income which enables a life with dignity.

This report provides an update of the MESL baskets to reflect prices in 2021, specifying the average weekly cost of the goods and services deemed necessary to enable a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. This update is based on a blend of direct pricing and inflation adjusted estimates but does not introduce any basket content adjustments.

In 2021 there have been modest changes within the cost of most MESL basket categories, with fluctuations seeing minor increase in one area largely offset by decreases in another. The report outlines the slight upward pressure in prices for households overall.

The MESL provides an evidence-based indicator of the current cost of the goods and services required to enable a socially acceptable minimum standard of living. In this way, the MESL expenditure data serves as a benchmark to assess the adequacy of social welfare supports and the national minimum wage.

The analysis in the report provides an evaluation of social welfare income adequacy for 214 test household cases. The examination of these cases reveals improvements in the position of a number cases, particularly for several household types with children, when compared to 2020. However, the trend in the findings is consistent with previous years, finding that deep income inadequacy is concentrated in households with older children (aged 12 and over) and one adult headed households, i.e. lone parent households and single working-age adult households.

A detailed examination of the MESL costs for children in four age-groups is also provided. The analysis again demonstrates that the cost of an MESL is highest for older children, aged 12 and over. The direct MESL needs of older children cost approximately €133 per week, and social welfare supports meet three fifths of these costs. Consequently, deep income inadequacy is found more frequently in household compositions with older children. However, the analysis finds the incidence of deep income inadequacy for household compositions with older children is decreasing due to the ongoing improvements in the higher QCI rate for children aged 12 and over.

Social welfare adjustments for households with children slightly exceed the increase in MESL costs this year. Consequently, the position of the majority of households with children examined has improved, at least marginally when dependent on social welfare. However, child poverty and income inadequacy can only be fully addressed when the minimum needs of the entire household are considered.

Working age households and individuals without children, also show income inadequacy when dependent on social welfare. A working-age single adult household type demonstrates deep income inadequacy, with a full Jobseekers payment meeting four fifths of MESL expenditure need when living alone in an urban area.

For older people, the analysis highlights the important role of the Living Alone Allowance in addressing the needs of older people living alone, when reliant on the State Pension. The MESL expenditure need of the single older person is approximately three quarters that of the older couple household. However, household income from State Pension (and secondary supports) for a pensioner living alone, is between 55% and 66% of a pensioner couple household's income. The Living Alone Allowance makes a vital contribution towards supporting this group of older people which have a higher risk of poverty and have previously tended to demonstrate income inadequacy.

Employment improves household income in comparison to social welfare alone, when secure and stable hours are available. However, the provision of effective in-work supports, and access to services and supports such as affordable childcare and rents, are vital to enabling minimum adequacy at a salary level at or near the minimum wage.

The cost of an MESL basket for an urban single adult in full-time minimum wage employment increased by 2.6% from 2020 to 2021. The primary factor in this increase is due to rising rents. The increase in housing costs has resulted in the inadequacy of a full-time minimum wage salary deepening, with an income shortfall of €140 per week. The NMW will provide for only 71.8% of this household's MESL expenditure need, compared to 73.3% in 2020.

For households with children all but three of the cases examined demonstrate income adequacy, when reliable and adequate hours of minimum wage employment are combined with in-work social welfare supports and services which effectively reduce the cost of an MESL. This assessment is based on the households having access to social housing paying a differential rent. The National Childcare Scheme is also included, where applicable. This is in effect a "best case" scenario.

The analysis for households with children also examines the position of these compositions if in a Housing Assistance Payment tenancy and thereby facing higher housing costs. A great incidence of income inadequacy is found in these scenarios.

Further examination of the supports available to households in low paid employment is carried out. The analysis reviews income supports, Working Family Payment, One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) and Jobseekers' Transitional (JST), and supports which reduce expenditure need, e.g. the Medical Card and National Childcare Scheme. A number of issues regarding the tapering and withdrawal rate of these supports is highlighted. The improvement in the structure of the One-Parent Family Payment, the removal of the €425 gross salary eligibility threshold, is welcomed, however the analysis also notes of other potential issues in the structure of OFP and JST.

The examination of the employed scenarios demonstrates that access to a differential rent is crucial for enabling income adequacy on earnings at, or near, the minimum wage. In every case examined, if the household did not have access to a differential rent or HAP, and was instead paying a market rent, the National Minimum Wage would not provide the basis of an adequate income. The

household compositions examined would require gross salary rates notably above the NMW rate to enable a socially acceptable minimum standard of living.

Finally, the annual MESL report provides detail of latest MESL expenditure needs and in-depth analysis of income adequacy assessments to underpin the evidence-based policy recommendations. The policy recommendations based on the findings from the MESL research are primarily articulated in the pre-budget submission to the Department of Social Protection, the submission to the Low Pay Commission, and in wider engagements with policy makers, government departments, etc.

Through providing the evidence-based benchmark of minimum needs and assessment of income adequacy, the MESL research also supports other organisations in the development of their policy recommendations. Furthermore, the MESL data and analysis informs a number of collaborative efforts, including the calculation of the Living Wage rate for Ireland and efforts to advocate for the benchmarking of social welfare rates to enable an adequate minimum standard of living, i.e. the MESL.

In this way, the VPSJ's Minimum Essential Standard of Living research is actively working towards a fairer society for all.

Additional Data

The full set of MESL 2021 data, for all household types and compositions, and the suite of income scenarios are available on the VPSJ's budget standards research website, budgeting.ie.

The full catalogue of the ongoing MESL research is also available, including Technical & Working Papers, Research Reports, the Annual MESL Update Papers, Submissions to Government, the MESL Budget Impact Briefings, and the detailed MESL expenditure and income needs of the full range of household types.

The Minimum Income Standard calculator, www.MISc.ie, is a tool which enables individuals and organisations tailor outputs from the MESL 2021 data to their specific needs. The website can be used to examine the minimum expenditure and income needs of the household composition(s) relevant to a user, allowing the user to specify household composition, location, housing type & cost and employment/income scenario.

Endnotes

i Table 1 Social Welfare Scenario Notes

The social welfare income scenarios assume full entitlement to payments relevant to the household scenario:

Two Parents	JS Personal Rate + Qualified Adult + Qualified Child, Child Benefit, Back to School Clothing & Footwear
One Parent	One-Parent Family Payment / Jobseeker's Transition + Qualified Child, Child Benefit, Back to School Clothing & Footwear, Fuel Allowance
Single Adult	JS Personal Rate, Rent Supplement (Urban, social housing Rural)
Pensioner, Living Alone	Non-Contributory Pension + Living Alone Increase, Fuel Allowance, Telephone Support Allowance, Household Benefits Package
Pensioner Couple	Contributory Pension + Qualified Adult, Fuel Allowance, Household Benefits Package

Assumed all social welfare dependent households are eligible for a full medical card

Table 1 NMW Employed Scenario Notes

Housing costs based on social housing (differential rent), with the exception of Single Adult which is based on 90% of average rent for a one bedroom dwelling.

Childcare costs included in MESL expenditure need, as appropriate. The Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) and ECCE scheme are reflected in the net average weekly childcare cost for infants and pre-school age children, as applicable. Based on full-time employment (37.5 hours), two parent households based on both adults in full-time employment. Income is net household income, after tax (PAYE, PRSI & USC), and includes applicable social welfare supports e.g. Child Benefit. Means tested social welfare supports included for households with children, e.g. Working Family Payment, One-Parent Family Payment, are included as applicable

Medical card means test applied in each scenario, following HSE Medical Card guidelines

- ii The MESL Expenditure in the social welfare scenario for the working age single adult household type includes housing costs based on Rent Supplement. The cost included is the tenant contribution (based on renting at the Rent Supplement limit for Dublin).
This approach is taken to facilitate comparison of income and expenditure between household types, and to avoid an apparent distortion of this household's income by including RS as income.
- iii McEvoy, O., Mac Mahon, B. and Thornton, R. (2020) *2018/19 Review and Rebase of the Minimum Essential Standard of Living*, Dublin: VPSJ, <https://www.budgeting.ie/publications/mesl-review-rebase-20182019/>
- iv Analysis of SILC 2019 data
www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2019/
- v Regan, M. and Maitre, B. (2020). Child Poverty in Ireland and the Pandemic Recession.
https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/BP202104_1.pdf
- vi Central Bank (2021). Quarterly Bulletin: QB2 – May 2021.
www.centralbank.ie/docs/default-source/publications/quarterly-bulletins/qb-archive/2021/quarterly-bulletin-q2-2021.pdf
- vii Roantree, B., Maitre, B., McTague, A., and Privalko, I. (2021). *Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland*. Dublin: ESRI and The Community Foundation of Ireland.
<https://doi.org/10.26504/bkmnext412>
- viii *Programme for Government: Our Shared Future*, published 2020
<https://assets.gov.ie/130911/fe93e24e-dfe0-40ff-9934-def2b44b7b52.pdf>
- ix Government of Ireland (2020). *Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025*.
<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/46557/bf7011904ede4562b925f98b15c4f1b5.pdf>
- x McEvoy, O., Mac Mahon, B. and Thornton, R. (2020) *2018/19 Review and Rebase of the Minimum Essential Standard of Living*, Dublin: VPSJ, <https://www.budgeting.ie/publications/mesl-review-rebase-20182019/>

^{xi} Thornton, R. & Boylan, H. (2021) *MESL Review & Rebase: Examining the accuracy of inflation adjustment and quantifying the impact of basket changes*. Dublin: VPSJ, <https://www.budgeting.ie/publications/examining-the-accuracy-of-inflation-adjustment-and/>

^{xii} The core Minimum Essential Standard of Living costs specify the core minimum costs, and exclude housing costs (e.g. rent), categories of expenditure which may vary by employment pattern such as childcare, and also the effect of secondary benefits such as a medical card. These additional costs (housing and childcare), and relevant adjustments for secondary benefits, are included in the overall cost of an MESL in scenarios assessing households' minimum income needs and in the examination of the adequacy of social welfare supports and the national minimum wage.

^{xiii} The Source of the 214 Test Cases:

The MESL data defines the minimum expenditure a specific household composition requires for an acceptable standard of living. The MESL requirement changes to reflect the composition of the household, varying with the adults and children (number and age-groups) in the household.

The MESL data can distinguish between the MESL expenditure needs of 69 compositions of 1 to 4 children across four age-groups, this results in 69 Two Parent household compositions and 69 One Parent household compositions. Further permutations are introduced through examining different income scenarios. This flexibility enables the benchmarking of social welfare adequacy for 214 test cases.

^{xiv} The CSO (2019) SILC 2019 data, below, shows that these household compositions have the highest rates of all household compositions, for each category, and notably higher rates than the headline national rate for all household compositions.

	At risk of poverty	Deprivation	Consistent poverty
1 adult aged <65	28.8	20.9	10.0
1 adult with children aged under 18	29.7	45.4	17.1
Headline rate	12.8	17.8	5.5

^{xv} Hirsch, D., Concialdi, P., Math, A., Padley, M., Pereira, E., Pereirinha, J., and Thornton, R. 2020. 'The Minimum Income Standard and equivalisation: Reassessing relative costs of singles and couples and of adults and children.' *Journal of Social Policy*, Cambridge University Press, 1–20. doi:10.1017/S0047279419001004.

^{xvi} Household income is detailed in the appendix tables, the Two Parent household is based on full Jobseeker's Allowance and Qualified Adult, Qualified Child Increases, Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance, and Child Benefit. In the One Parent household, social welfare income is based on the full rate of One-Parent Family Payment / Jobseeker's Transitional, Qualified Child Increases, Fuel Allowance Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance, and Child Benefit.

^{xvii} The Christmas Bonus is 100% of primary social welfare, this equates to an average weekly value of €3.90 for a working age single adult in receipt of a full JA payment. The Fuel Allowance is currently €28.00 per week and is paid over 28 weeks, which is an average of €15.08 over 52 weeks.

^{xviii} When in receipt of the Contributory Pension income meets 86.4% of MESL need. The inclusion of the Christmas Bonus in the calculation increases the average weekly income, such that 84.7% or 88.0% of rural MESL need is met in the case of the Non-Contributory or Contributory Pension respectively.

^{xix} The MESL budget for Older People and for Households with Children is based on living in a standard sized family home (approx. 100 m²) with a C2 energy rating.

When in urban areas the budget includes 13,300 units of natural gas per annum to adequately heat the home.

When in rural areas the budget is based on home heating oil, with the household requiring approx. 1,260 litres per annum.

^{xx} The MIS method, calculates the PAYE income tax liability, PRSI contribution and amount of USC payable, and assesses eligibility for any social welfare entitlements applicable to the household type. Household income is calculated on the basis of incremental increases in salary, re-assessing the adequacy of household income at each step.

The MIS method involves multiple iterations of these calculations, each iteration representing a €0.10 incremental increase in hourly salary. The Minimum Income Standard for a household is reached at the point where total household income meets the MESL expenditure need of the specified household type.

^{xxi} MESL childcare costs for infants and pre-school age children are based on the use of formal private childcare providers.

At primary school age where both after-school care and full-time care outside of school term time, costs are based on the use of formal childcare providers.

In these cases either ECCE or NCS subventions are applied to calculate the net cost of childcare to the household, as applicable.

However, in scenarios where parental employment is part-time and a lower level of childcare is required, the MESL childcare costs are based on care being provided by a friend or relative, after school and during school holidays, with an agreed contribution made by the household for this. This type of informal childcare is not eligible for subvention under the NCS.

- ^{xxii} Two Parent One adult employed full-time (37.5 hours) and one 'stay-at-home' parent;
 One employed full-time (37.5 hours) and one part-time (19 hours);
 Both adults employed full-time (37.5 hours)
- One Parent Adult employed part-time (19 hours);
 Adult employed full-time (37.5 hours)

- ^{xxiii} Paying a differential rent (€66 per week) and a further top-up direct to the landlord (€78 per week).
 The top-up is based on renting a three-bedroom dwelling in the Dublin area at 90% of average rents, €1613 per month.
 The current Dublin rent limit is €1,275 per month. The HAP rent limit falls €338 short.

Appendix:

MESL Expenditure & Income Tables

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URBAN 2021

Core MESL Weekly Expenditure Budget

Excludes Housing, Childcare and the effect of secondary benefits

	TWO PARENT					ONE PARENT			OTHER WORKING AGE		PENSIONER	
	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA	CP	LP	PC
	First Child Infant	Pre-School	Primary	Infant	Primary	Primary	Pre-School	Primary	Single Adult living alone	Couple, co-habiting	Pensioner living alone	Pensioner Couple
	Second Child	Primary	Secondary	Pre-School	Primary		Primary	Secondary				
	Third Child			Primary	Secondary							
	Fourth Child				Secondary							
Food	92.42	119.59	146.41	147.67	228.48	68.59	90.61	117.43	47.54	79.91	56.63	69.69
Clothing	34.54	30.63	33.74	48.32	50.63	15.68	22.57	25.68	11.69	23.84	11.52	21.56
Personal Care	25.17	19.56	24.58	30.06	34.49	11.20	12.77	17.79	8.96	20.56	8.45	14.29
Health	13.85	14.62	18.28	18.36	26.46	9.68	11.22	14.88	5.23	12.39	11.76	23.39
Household Goods	26.43	22.18	22.38	32.55	28.14	18.20	21.18	21.38	5.97	7.66	18.65	19.95
Household Services	6.06	6.06	6.06	6.06	6.06	6.06	6.06	6.06	3.76	3.76	15.13	8.09
Communications	20.23	20.23	25.74	20.23	31.25	14.71	14.71	20.23	14.55	20.16	19.47	25.52
Social Inclusion & Participation	59.53	80.97	103.00	83.29	148.78	57.43	64.47	86.49	52.22	77.23	53.93	67.08
Education	3.36	13.94	32.92	13.94	62.48	13.94	13.94	32.92	3.72	5.28	0.00	0.00
Transport	55.00	57.70	60.40	57.70	65.80	30.20	30.20	32.90	36.62	70.92	6.92	6.92
Household Energy	27.88	28.85	30.80	30.59	36.01	27.26	27.26	29.20	19.19	21.69	24.76	28.23
Personal Costs	9.13	9.21	9.21	9.29	9.37	7.61	7.68	7.68	7.53	15.06	4.27	2.29
Insurance	29.66	35.91	34.87	35.91	40.07	18.33	21.83	20.79	13.49	27.76	16.57	31.05
Savings & Contingencies	21.36	26.36	26.36	31.36	36.36	17.61	22.61	22.61	10.00	15.00	10.00	15.00
Total	424.61	485.81	574.74	565.32	804.36	316.48	367.10	456.03	240.47	401.23	258.06	333.09
Adjustments												
Childcare PT	152.89	152.35	23.08	305.24	46.15	23.08	152.35	23.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Childcare FT	240.16	343.65	121.14	583.81	242.28	121.14	343.65	121.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medical Card Deductions												
Full Medical Card	-37.48	-47.15	-49.34	-47.39	-61.44	-25.10	-29.73	-31.92	-16.65	-37.23	-23.83	-47.67
GP Visit Card	-4.56	-6.84	-9.12	-6.84	-13.68	-5.70	-5.70	-7.98	-1.14	-4.56	-4.56	-9.12

RURAL 2021

Core MESL Weekly Expenditure Budget

Excludes Housing, Childcare and the effect of secondary benefits

	TWO PARENT					ONE PARENT			OTHER WORKING AGE		PENSIONER	
	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA	CP	LP	PC
	First Child Infant	Pre-School	Primary	Infant	Primary	Primary	Pre-School	Primary	Single Adult living alone	Couple, co-habiting	Pensioner living alone	Pensioner Couple
	Second Child	Primary	Secondary	Pre-School	Primary		Primary	Secondary				
	Third Child			Primary	Secondary							
	Fourth Child				Secondary							
Food	97.84	129.27	157.72	157.35	245.69	73.73	97.58	126.04	48.27	81.11	59.18	73.73
Clothing	34.68	31.31	34.48	48.99	51.95	16.04	23.17	26.34	12.15	24.52	11.75	22.05
Personal Care	25.17	19.56	24.58	30.06	34.49	11.20	12.77	17.79	8.63	20.87	8.68	14.52
Health	12.70	12.78	16.19	16.51	23.42	8.54	9.76	13.17	4.85	11.25	10.82	21.50
Household Goods	26.29	22.08	22.27	32.44	28.08	18.09	21.09	21.28	6.11	7.78	18.86	20.23
Household Services	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	2.13	4.02	15.11	12.17
Communications	22.53	22.53	28.05	22.53	33.56	17.02	17.02	22.53	16.48	22.09	19.47	25.52
Social Inclusion & Participation	52.87	71.90	90.70	74.22	130.85	50.52	56.93	75.73	43.60	60.36	52.11	68.49
Education	3.36	14.14	33.39	14.14	63.41	14.14	14.14	33.39	3.72	5.28	0.00	0.00
Transport	148.37	148.37	148.37	148.37	152.86	74.95	74.95	74.95	70.92	82.07	70.33	76.28
Household Energy	32.96	33.86	35.66	35.47	40.49	32.38	32.38	34.18	24.99	27.25	30.52	33.28
Personal Costs	9.13	9.21	9.21	9.29	9.37	7.61	7.68	7.68	7.53	15.06	4.27	2.29
Insurance	42.91	49.16	48.12	49.16	53.13	27.21	30.71	29.67	20.32	34.62	22.38	37.07
Savings & Contingencies	21.36	26.36	26.36	31.36	36.36	18.03	23.03	23.03	10.00	15.00	10.00	15.00
Total	538.63	598.99	683.55	678.35	912.12	377.93	429.69	514.25	279.69	411.27	333.47	422.13
Adjustments												
Childcare PT	107.76	121.81	23.08	229.58	46.15	23.08	121.81	23.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Childcare FT	172.94	268.78	105.19	441.72	210.37	105.19	268.78	105.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medical Card Deductions												
Full Medical Card	-36.34	-45.31	-47.25	-45.56	-58.40	-23.96	-28.28	-30.21	-16.27	-36.09	-22.89	-46.20
GP Visit Card	-3.81	-5.71	-7.61	-5.71	-11.42	-4.76	-4.76	-6.66	-0.95	-3.81	-3.81	-7.61

2021	URBAN Core MESL by Child Age-Group			
	INFANT	PRE-SCHOOL	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Food	28.08	22.03	33.23	48.84
Clothing	17.68	6.89	6.89	10.00
Personal Care	10.50	1.57	3.32	6.59
Health	3.74	1.54	2.97	5.20
Household Goods	10.26	2.98	3.04	3.18
Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.51
Social Inclusion & Participation	2.32	7.04	16.72	29.06
Education	0.00	0.00	10.58	18.97
Transport	0.00	0.00	2.70	2.70
Household Energy (Electricity)	0.63	0.00	1.60	1.94
Personal Costs	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Insurance (Health)	0.00	3.50	2.75	2.46
Savings & Contingencies	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total MESL Core*	78.29	50.62	88.87	139.54

CHILDCARE[†]

Childcare PT	141.35	81.12	23.08	0.00
Childcare FT	217.99	220.75	120.12	0.00
Medical Card Deductions				
Full Medical Card	0.24	4.63	5.28	6.82
GP Visit Card	0.00	0.00	2.28	2.28

* MESL Core Cost of A Child, excludes Childcare and the effect of secondary benefits

† Net of Universal NCS for Infant and ECCE for Pre-School Age

RURAL	Core MESL by Child Age-Group			
	INFANT	PRE-SCHOOL	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Food	28.08	23.85	35.66	52.31
Clothing	17.68	7.13	7.17	10.30
Personal Care	10.50	1.57	3.32	6.59
Health	3.73	1.22	2.60	4.63
Household Goods	10.26	2.99	3.05	3.19
Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.51
Social Inclusion & Participation	2.32	6.41	14.95	25.21
Education	0.00	0.00	10.78	19.24
Transport	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Household Energy (Electricity)	0.58	0.00	1.48	1.80
Personal Costs	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Insurance (Health)	0.00	3.50	2.75	2.46
Savings & Contingencies	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total MESL Core*	78.24	51.76	86.83	136.32

Childcare PT	95.70	99.97	23.08	0.00
Childcare FT	155.79	165.79	102.20	0.00
Medical Card Deductions				
Full Medical Card	0.24	4.31	4.91	6.25
GP Visit Card	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.90

WORKING AGE

SOCIAL WELFARE SCENARIO

URBAN

Income Scenario	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA	CP
	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	One-Parent Family Payment	One-Parent Family Payment	Jobseeker Transition	Jobseeker <i>Private Rented</i>	2 Jobseeker <i>Private Rented</i>
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED										
MESL Core*	383.13	434.66	521.40	513.92	738.92	287.39	333.37	420.11	219.82	356.00
Housing	45.80	50.50	51.50	55.20	62.00	30.30	35.00	36.10	32.00	110.30
Total MESL Expenditure	428.93	485.16	572.90	569.12	800.92	317.69	368.37	456.21	251.82	466.30
PRIMARY SOCIAL WELFARE										
Adult 1 (JS / OFP)	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00
Adult 2 (JS / QA)	134.70	134.70	134.70	134.70	134.70	...	...	...	...	203.00
Qualified Child Increase	38.00	76.00	83.00	114.00	166.00	38.00	76.00	83.00	...	...
Total Primary Social Welfare	375.70	413.70	420.70	451.70	503.70	241.00	279.00	286.00	203.00	406.00
SECONDARY SOCIAL WEFLARE										
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23	32.31	64.62	64.62	...	...
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35	2.88	2.88	8.17	...	...
Fuel Allowance	...	...	...	...	...	15.08	15.08	15.08	...	...
Christmas Bonus	7.23	7.96	8.09	8.69	9.69	4.63	5.37	5.50	...	...
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	408.01	481.20	493.49	551.51	649.28	291.27	361.58	373.87	203.00	406.00
INCOME ADEQUACY	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	-20.93	-3.96	-79.41	-17.62	-151.64	-26.42	-6.79	-82.34	-48.82	-60.30

* MESL Core adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card) and employment scenario

WORKING AGE

SOCIAL WELFARE SCENARIO

RURAL

Income Scenario	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA	CP
	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	1 Jobseeker & 1 Stay at Home	One-Parent Family Payment	One-Parent Family Payment	Jobseeker Transition	Jobseeker <i>Social Housing</i>	2 Jobseeker <i>Private Rented</i>
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED										
MESL Core*	421.24	472.62	555.25	551.74	772.66	349.97	397.41	480.04	254.98	367.18
Housing	57.30	61.53	62.83	65.77	71.10	35.97	40.27	41.50	30.07	110.30
Total MESL Expenditure	478.54	534.15	618.09	617.50	843.76	385.94	437.68	521.54	285.05	477.48
PRIMARY SOCIAL WELFARE										
Adult 1 (JS / OFP)	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00	203.00
Adult 2 (JS / QA)	134.70	134.70	134.70	134.70	134.70	...	...	...	...	203.00
Qualified Child Increase	38.00	76.00	83.00	114.00	166.00	38.00	76.00	83.00	...	...
Total Primary Social Welfare	375.70	413.70	420.70	451.70	503.70	241.00	279.00	286.00	203.00	406.00
SECONDARY SOCIAL WEFLARE										
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23	32.31	64.62	64.62	...	...
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35	2.88	2.88	8.17	...	...
Fuel Allowance	...	...	...	...	...	15.08	15.08	15.08	...	...
Christmas Bonus	7.23	7.96	8.09	8.69	9.69	4.63	5.37	5.50		...
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	408.01	481.20	493.49	551.51	649.28	291.27	361.58	373.87	203.00	406.00
INCOME ADEQUACY	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	-70.54	-52.95	-124.60	-66.00	-194.48	-94.67	-76.10	-147.68	-82.05	-71.48

* MESL Core adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card) and employment scenario

PENSIONER HOUSEHOLD TYPES

URBAN

	LP	LP	PC	PC	PC
Income Scenario	Non-Contributory	Contributory	Both Non-Contributory	Contributory & Non-Contributory	Contributory & Qualified Adult
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	223.07	223.07	274.27	274.27	274.27
Housing	33.60	35.30	49.75	51.45	52.46
Total MESL Expenditure	256.67	258.37	324.02	325.71	326.72
PRIMARY SOCIAL WELFARE					
Pension 1	237.00	248.30	237.00	248.30	248.30
Pension 2 / Living Alone	19.00	19.00	237.00	237.00	165.40
Fuel Allowance	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08
Telephone Support Allowance	2.50	2.50	...	...	...
Total Primary Social Welfare	273.58	284.88	489.08	500.38	428.78
SOCIAL WEFLARE SUPPORTS					
Household Benefits Package	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE
Medical Card	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
Household Income	273.58	284.88	489.08	500.38	428.78
INCOME ADEQUACY					
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	16.90	26.51	165.06	174.66	102.05

* MESL Core adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card) and employment scenario

PENSIONER HOUSEHOLD TYPES

RURAL	LP	LP	PC	PC	PC
Income Scenario	Non-Contributory	Contributory	Both Non-Contributory	Contributory & Non-Contributory	Contributory & Qualified Adult
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	299.43	299.43	365.20	365.20	365.20
Housing	29.47	30.30	45.63	46.47	51.47
Total MESL Expenditure	328.89	329.73	410.83	411.67	416.67
PRIMARY SOCIAL WELFARE					
Pension 1	237.00	248.30	237.00	248.30	248.30
Pension 2 / Living Alone	19.00	19.00	237.00	237.00	165.40
Fuel Allowance	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08
Telephone Support Allowance	2.50	2.50	...	...	...
Total Primary Social Welfare	273.58	284.88	489.08	500.38	428.78
SOCIAL WEFLARE SUPPORTS					
Household Benefits Package	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE
Medical Card	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
Household Income	273.58	284.88	489.08	500.38	428.78
INCOME ADEQUACY	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	-55.32	-44.85	78.24	88.71	12.11

* MESL Core adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card) and employment scenario

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

MINIMUM WAGE

URBAN

	SA	SA	CP
Employment Scenario	Full-Time <i>HAP (+ top-up)</i>	Full-Time <i>Private Rented</i>	2 Full-Time <i>Private Rented</i>
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED			
MESL Core*	223.82	223.82	396.67
Housing	169.45	273.06	273.06
Total MESL Expenditure	393.28	496.88	669.73

NMW SALARY

Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax 1	13.03	13.03	12.54
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2			382.50
Income Tax 2			12.54
USC 2			4.19
PRSI 2			8.38
Net Salary	356.90	356.90	714.79
Medical Card	FULL	FULL	GP VISIT

INCOME ADEQUACY	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	-36.38	-139.98	45.06

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

RURAL

MINIMUM WAGE

	SA	SA	CP
Employment Scenario	Full-Time <i>Differential Rent</i>	Full-Time <i>Private Rented</i>	2 Full-Time <i>Private Rented</i>
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED			
MESL Core*	278.74	263.42	411.27
Housing	57.37	160.66	160.66
Total MESL Expenditure	336.11	424.09	571.93

NMW SALARY

Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax 1	12.67	13.03	12.40
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2			382.50
Income Tax 2			12.40
USC 2			4.19
PRSI 2			8.38
Net Salary	357.26	356.90	715.06
Medical Card	GP VISIT	FULL	NONE

INCOME ADEQUACY

	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	21.16	-67.19	143.13

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	387.13	438.66	525.40	517.92	742.92
Childcare	...	...	...	...	...
Social Housing	60.30	68.50	68.50	76.50	83.70
Total MESL Expenditure	447.43	507.16	593.90	594.42	826.62
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	...	...	...	...	...
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	...	...	...	...	...
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	...	...	...	...	...
PRSI 2	...	...	...	...	...
Net Salary	369.93	369.93	369.93	369.93	369.93
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	103.00	164.00	164.00	224.00	279.00
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	505.24	601.43	606.72	693.74	794.51
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	57.81	94.27	12.82	99.32	-32.11

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	424.05	482.97	569.61	521.92	746.92
Childcare	18.70	39.88	23.08	61.32	46.15
Social Housing	70.70	76.70	76.70	84.90	92.10
Total MESL Expenditure	513.45	599.55	669.39	668.15	885.17
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	...	...	...	...	...
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	...	...	...	...	...
PRSI 2	...	...	...	...	...
Net Salary	563.73	563.73	563.73	563.73	563.73
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	...	47.00	47.00	108.00	163.00
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Full	Full
Household Income	596.04	678.23	683.52	771.54	872.31
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	82.59	78.68	14.13	103.39	-12.86

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	424.05	482.97	569.61	521.92	794.67
Childcare	101.82	158.31	75.29	227.83	143.65
Social Housing	66.90	66.00	66.00	67.80	74.70
Total MESL Expenditure	592.77	707.28	710.90	817.55	1,013.03
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	25.01	24.76	24.58	26.01	24.09
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 2	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Net Salary	714.85	715.11	715.28	713.86	715.77
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	...	...	...	20.00	71.00
BSCFA	...	...	...	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Full	Doctor Only
Household Income	747.16	779.72	779.90	833.66	932.35
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	154.39	72.45	69.00	16.11	-80.68

EMPLOYED SCENARIO	HAP SCENARIO				URBAN
MINIMUM WAGE	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	387.13	438.66	525.40	517.92	742.92
Childcare	...	...	...	...	...
Housing (HAP + top-up)	113.41	146.49	146.49	148.72	155.92
Total MESL Expenditure	500.55	585.15	671.89	666.64	898.83
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	...	...	...	...	...
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	...	...	...	...	...
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	...	...	...	...	...
PRSI 2	...	...	...	...	...
Net Salary	369.93	369.93	369.93	369.93	369.93
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	103.00	164.00	164.00	224.00	279.00
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	505.24	601.43	606.72	693.74	794.51
INCOME ADEQUACY	Marginal	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	4.69	16.28	-65.17	27.10	-104.32

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	424.05	442.66	529.40	521.92	746.92
Childcare	18.70	39.88	23.08	61.32	46.15
Housing (HAP + top-up)	123.81	154.69	154.69	157.12	164.32
Total MESL Expenditure	566.56	637.23	707.16	740.36	957.39
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	...	...	...	...	...
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	...	...	...	...	...
PRSI 2	...	...	...	...	...
Net Salary	563.73	563.73	563.73	563.73	563.73
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	...	47.00	47.00	108.00	163.00
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	596.04	678.23	683.52	771.54	872.31
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	29.48	41.01	-23.64	31.17	-85.08

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	424.05	482.97	569.61	521.92	746.92
Childcare	101.82	158.31	75.29	227.83	143.67
Housing (HAP + top-up)	120.01	143.99	143.99	140.02	146.92
Total MESL Expenditure	645.88	785.26	788.89	889.77	1,037.51
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	25.01	24.76	24.58	26.01	26.01
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 2	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Net Salary	714.85	715.11	715.28	713.86	713.86
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	...	...	...	20.00	73.00
BSCFA	...	...	...	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Full	Full
Household Income	747.16	779.72	779.90	833.66	932.43
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	101.28	-5.54	-8.99	-56.10	-105.07

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

Rural

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home	1 Full-Time & 1 Stay at Home
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	502.30	553.67	636.31	632.79	853.72
Childcare	...	...	...	...	...
Social Housing	56.13	53.67	53.67	51.20	47.23
Total MESL Expenditure	558.43	607.34	689.97	683.99	900.95
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	...	...	...	...	...
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	...	...	...	...	...
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	...	...	...	...	...
PRSI 2	...	...	...	...	...
Net Salary	369.93	369.93	369.93	369.93	369.93
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	103.00	164.00	164.00	224.00	279.00
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	505.24	601.43	606.72	693.74	794.51
INCOME ADEQUACY	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	-53.19	-5.91	-83.25	9.75	-106.44

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

Rural

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time	1 Full-Time & 1 Part-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	538.83	597.28	679.94	676.64	857.72
Childcare	...	23.08	23.08	23.08	46.15
Social Housing	78.67	78.27	78.27	77.07	73.10
Total MESL Expenditure	617.49	698.62	781.29	776.78	976.97
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	...	...	...	...	...
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80	193.80
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	...	...	...	...	...
PRSI 2	...	...	...	...	...
Net Salary	563.73	563.73	563.73	563.73	563.73
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	...	47.00	47.00	108.00	163.00
BSCFA	...	2.88	8.17	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Full
Household Income	596.04	678.23	683.52	771.54	872.31
INCOME ADEQUACY	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	-21.46	-20.39	-97.77	-5.24	-104.66

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

RURAL

MINIMUM WAGE

	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4
Employment Scenario	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time	2 Full-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED					
MESL Core*	542.63	597.28	679.94	676.64	904.70
Childcare	34.68	83.40	59.32	86.41	111.95
Social Housing	87.90	86.83	86.83	86.10	84.57
Total MESL Expenditure	665.21	767.51	826.10	849.15	1,101.22
NMW SALARY					
Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	24.74	24.90	24.70	24.84	24.24
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Gross Salary 2	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI 2	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38
Net Salary	715.12	714.96	715.17	715.03	715.62
SOCIAL WEFLARE					
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23
Working Family Payment	...	...	...	20.00	72.00
BSCFA	...	...	...	2.88	16.35
Medical Card	None	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only
Household Income	747.43	779.58	779.78	834.83	933.20
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	82.22	12.07	-46.32	-14.32	-168.02

EMPLOYED SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	OP 1 (6)	OP 2a	OP 2b	OP 1 (6)	OP 2a	OP 2b
Employment Scenario	Part-Time	Part-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Full-Time	Full-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED						
MESL Core*	291.39	337.37	424.11	291.39	337.37	424.11
Childcare	23.08	37.99	23.08	51.74	130.63	58.51
Social Housing	68.60	79.00	63.00	73.20	83.00	75.90
Total MESL Expenditure	383.06	454.36	510.18	416.33	551.00	558.52
NMW SALARY						
Gross Salary	193.80	193.80	193.80	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax	...	...	...	9.98	17.56	...
USC	...	...	...	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI	...	...	...	8.38	8.38	8.38
Net Salary	193.80	193.80	193.80	359.95	352.38	369.93
SOCIAL WEFLARE						
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	32.31	64.62	64.62
Working Family Payment	69.00	107.00	...	23.00	65.00	...
BSCFA	2.88	2.88	8.17	...	...	...
One-Parent Family / Jobseeker Transiti	233.50	271.50	271.60	143.50	181.50	181.44
Fuel Allowance	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08
Christmas Bonus	4.49	5.22	5.22	2.76	3.49	3.49
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	551.06	660.10	558.49	576.60	682.06	634.55
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	168.00	205.74	48.30	160.27	131.06	76.04

EMPLOYED SCENARIO HAP SCENARIO

URBAN

MINIMUM WAGE

	OP 1 (6)	OP 2a	OP 2b	OP 1 (6)	OP 2a	OP 2b
Employment Scenario	Part-Time	Part-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Full-Time	Full-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED						
MESL Core*	291.39	337.37	424.11	291.39	337.37	424.11
Childcare	23.08	37.99	23.08	51.74	130.63	58.51
Housing (HAP + top-up)	121.71	156.99	140.99	126.31	160.99	153.89
Total MESL Expenditure	436.17	532.34	588.17	469.44	628.99	636.50
NMW SALARY						
Gross Salary	193.80	193.80	193.80	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax	...	...	...	9.98	17.56	...
USC	...	...	...	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI	...	...	...	8.38	8.38	8.38
Net Salary	193.80	193.80	193.80	359.95	352.38	369.93
SOCIAL WEFLARE						
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	32.31	64.62	64.62
Working Family Payment	69.00	107.00	...	23.00	65.00	...
BSCFA	2.88	2.88	8.17	...	...	...
One-Parent Family / Jobseeker Transiti	233.50	271.50	271.60	143.50	181.50	181.44
Fuel Allowance	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08
Christmas Bonus	4.49	5.22	5.22	2.76	3.49	3.49
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	551.06	660.10	558.49	576.60	682.06	634.55
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	114.89	127.76	-29.68	107.16	53.07	-1.95

MINIMUM WAGE

RURAL

RURAL	OP 1 (6)	OP 2a	OP 2b	OP 1 (6)	OP 2a	OP 2b
Employment Scenario	Part-Time	Part-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Full-Time	Full-Time
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED						
MESL Core*	353.97	401.41	484.04	353.97	401.41	484.04
Childcare	23.08	23.08	23.08	35.79	55.76	42.56
Housing	69.03	73.43	73.43	81.50	85.10	86.57
Total MESL Expenditure	446.08	497.92	580.55	471.26	542.27	613.17
NMW SALARY						
Gross Salary	193.80	193.80	193.80	382.50	382.50	382.50
Income Tax	...	...	...	9.98	17.56	...
USC	...	...	...	4.19	4.19	4.19
PRSI	...	...	...	8.38	8.38	8.38
Net Salary	193.80	193.80	193.80	359.95	352.38	369.93
SOCIAL WEFLARE						
Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	32.31	64.62	64.62
Working Family Payment	69.00	107.00	...	23.00	65.00	...
BSCFA	2.88	2.88	8.17	...	...	...
One-Parent Family / Jobseeker Transiti	233.50	271.50	271.60	143.50	181.50	181.44
Fuel Allowance	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08	15.08
Christmas Bonus	4.49	5.22	5.22	2.76	3.49	3.49
Medical Card	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full
Household Income	551.06	660.10	558.49	576.60	682.06	634.55
INCOME ADEQUACY	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
(Household Income - MESL Expenditure)	104.98	162.18	-22.06	105.34	139.78	21.39

MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD

URBAN - Social Housing

All Adults employed full-time	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED									HAP (+ top-up)
MESL Core*	424.05	482.97	569.61	521.92	794.67	291.39	337.37	424.11	239.33
Childcare	101.82	158.31	75.29	227.83	179.04	51.74	130.63	58.51	...
Housing (Differential Rent)	66.90	66.00	66.00	67.80	75.00	73.20	83.00	75.90	179.05
Total MESL Expenditure	592.77	707.28	710.90	817.55	1,048.71	416.33	551.00	558.52	418.38

MIS SALARY

Gross Salary 1	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	536.25	382.50	382.50	382.50	480.00
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	25.01	24.76	24.58	26.01	85.59	9.98	17.56	...	32.13
USC 1	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	10.72	4.19	4.19	4.19	8.19
PRSI 1	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	21.45	8.38	8.38	8.38	19.20
Gross Salary 2	382.50	382.50	382.50	382.50	536.25				
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...
USC 2	4.19	4.19	4.19	4.19	10.72				
PRSI 2	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.38	21.45				
Net Salary	714.85	715.11	715.28	713.86	922.57	359.95	352.38	369.93	420.48

SOCIAL WEFLARE

Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23	32.31	64.62	64.62	
Working Family Payment	...	...	...	20.00	...	23.00	65.00	...	
BSCFA	...	...	...	2.88	...	...	...	...
One-Parent Family / Jobseeker Transitional					...	143.50	181.50	181.44	
Fuel Allowance					...	15.08	15.08	15.08	
Christmas Bonus						2.76	3.49	3.49	
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Full	Doctor Only	Full	Full	Full	GP VISIT
Total Income	747.16	779.72	779.90	833.66	1,051.80	576.60	682.06	634.55	420.48

MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD

URBAN - Social Housing

All Adults employed full-time	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED									HAP (+ top-up)
MESL Core*	424.05	482.97	569.61	521.92	794.67	291.39	337.37	424.11	239.33
Childcare	101.82	158.31	75.29	227.83	179.04	51.74	130.63	58.51	...
Housing (Differential Rent)	66.90	66.00	66.00	67.80	75.00	73.20	83.00	75.90	179.05
Total MESL Expenditure	592.77	707.28	710.90	817.55	1,048.71	416.33	551.00	558.52	418.38

Weekly Household Disposable Income (Net Salary + Social Transfers)

Net Salary	714.85	715.11	715.28	713.86	922.57	359.95	352.38	369.93	420.48
Social Transfers	32.31	64.62	64.62	119.81	129.23	213.88	326.19	261.13	...
Medical Card	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Doctor Only	Full	Doctor Only	Full	Full	Full	GP VISIT
Household Income	747.16	779.72	779.90	833.66	1,051.80	576.60	682.06	634.55	420.48

MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD, *per adult employed full-time*

MIS Annual Gross Salary, <i>per adult</i>	19,943.55	19,943.55	19,943.55	19,943.55	27,960.08	19,943.55	19,943.55	19,943.55	25,027.20
MIS Hourly Gross Salary, <i>per adult</i>	10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	14.30	10.20	10.20	10.20	12.80
MIS - NMW	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.60
MIS as % NMW	100%	100%	100%	100%	140%	100%	100%	100%	125%
Hours NMW, <i>per adult</i>	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	52.57	37.50	37.50	37.50	47.06

* MESL Core adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card) and employment scenario

MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD

URBAN - Private Rented Housing

All Adults employed full-time	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA	CP
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED										
MESL Core*	424.05	442.66	569.61	521.92	794.67	291.39	337.37	424.11	239.33	396.67
Childcare	154.85	245.95	108.98	516.68	242.28	67.63	201.17	89.65	...	...
Housing (Private Rent)	341.57	372.22	372.22	372.22	372.22	341.57	372.22	372.22	273.06	273.06
Total MESL Expenditure	920.48	1,060.82	1,050.81	1,410.82	1,409.16	700.59	910.76	885.97	512.39	669.73

MIS SALARY

Gross Salary 1	513.75	585.00	581.25	843.75	828.75	776.25	1,106.25	1,061.25	611.25	382.50
Income Tax <i>(joint assessment for TP)</i>	77.51	107.02	104.08	276.47	262.55	64.13	196.10	178.11	58.38	12.54
USC 1	9.71	8.24	12.75	13.41	23.88	12.06	18.66	17.76	14.10	4.19
PRSI 1	20.55	23.40	23.25	33.75	33.15	31.05	44.25	42.45	24.45	8.38
Gross Salary 2	513.75	585.00	581.25	843.75	828.75					382.50
Income Tax 2	...	...	...	...	...					12.54
USC 2	9.71	8.24	12.75	13.41	23.88					4.19
PRSI 2	20.55	23.40	23.25	33.75	33.15					8.38
Net Salary	889.47	999.71	986.43	1,316.71	1,280.88	669.02	847.24	822.93	514.32	714.79

SOCIAL WEFLARE

Child Benefit	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23	32.31	64.62	64.62	...	...
Working Family Payment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BSCFA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
One-Parent Family / Jobseeker Transiti	...					...	...	...	...	...
Fuel Allowance	...					...	...	...	...	...
Childcare Support	NCS	NCS	NCS	NCS		NCS	NCS	NCS		
Medical Card	GP Visit	Full	GP Visit	Full	GP Visit	Full	Full	Full	GP Visit	GP VISIT
Total Income	921.78	1,064.33	1,051.04	1,413.63	1,410.11	701.32	911.85	887.54	514.32	714.79

MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD

URBAN - Private Rented Housing

All Adults employed full-time	TP 1	TP 2a	TP 2b	TP 3	TP 4	OP 1	OP 2a	OP 2b	SA	CP
MESL EXPENDITURE NEED										
MESL Core*	424.05	442.66	569.61	521.92	794.67	291.39	337.37	424.11	239.33	396.67
Childcare	154.85	245.95	108.98	516.68	242.28	67.63	201.17	89.65	...	...
Housing (Private Rent)	341.57	372.22	372.22	372.22	372.22	341.57	372.22	372.22	273.06	273.06
Total MESL Expenditure	920.48	1,060.82	1,050.81	1,410.82	1,409.16	700.59	910.76	885.97	512.39	669.73

Weekly Household Disposable Income (Net Salary + Social Transfers)

Net Salary	889.47	999.71	986.43	1,316.71	1,280.88	669.02	847.24	822.93	514.32	714.79
Social Transfers	32.31	64.62	64.62	96.92	129.23	32.31	64.62	64.62	...	...
Medical Card	GP Visit	Full	GP Visit	Full	GP Visit	Full	Full	Full	GP Visit	GP VISIT
Household Income	921.78	1,064.33	1,051.04	1,413.63	1,410.11	701.32	911.85	887.54	514.32	714.79

MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD, *per adult employed full-time*

MIS Annual Gross Salary, <i>per adult</i>	26,786.93	30,501.90	30,306.38	43,993.13	43,211.03	40,473.68	57,679.88	55,333.58	31,870.58	19,943.55
MIS Hourly Gross Salary, <i>per adult</i>	13.70	15.60	15.50	22.50	22.10	20.70	29.50	28.30	16.30	10.20
MIS - NMW	3.50	5.40	5.30	12.30	11.90	10.50	19.30	18.10	6.10	0.00
MIS as % NMW	134%	153%	152%	221%	217%	203%	289%	277%	160%	100%
Hours NMW, <i>per adult</i>	50.37	57.35	56.99	82.72	81.25	76.10	108.46	104.04	59.93	37.50

* MESL Core adjusted for the effect of secondary benefits (e.g. Medical Card) and employment scenario

NOTES

HOUSEHOLD TYPE & COMPOSITIONS

TP 1	Two Parents with One Child	an infant (aged under 1)
TP 2a	Two Parents with Two Children	one in pre-school & one in primary school (ages 3 & 6)
TP 2b	Two Parents with Two Children	one in primary school & one in secondary school (ages 10 & 15)
TP 3	Two Parents with Three Children	an infant, one in pre-school & one in primary school (ages under 1, 3
TP 4	Two Parents with Four Children	two in primary school & two in secondary school (ages 8, 11, 14 & 1
OP 1	One Parent with One Child	in primary school (aged 6)
OP 2a	One Parent with Two Children	one in pre-school & one in primary school (ages 3 & 6)
OP 2b	One Parent with Two Children	one in primary school & one in secondary school (ages 10 & 15)
SA	Single Adult, of Working Age	living alone, no dependent children
CP	Couple, or Working Age	co-habiting, no dependent children
LP	Pensioner	living alone
PC	Pensioner Couple	

*MESL Core Costs adjusted for effect of secondary benefits (Medical Card, Household Benefits Package), and personal costs associated with employment scenario

SOCIAL HOUSING COSTS

Differential Rent	URBAN	Dublin City Council Rent Scheme
	RURAL	Average result from three Rural Local Authority Rent Schemes

RENT SUPPLEMENT / HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

Maximum rent limit	URBAN	Dublin - excluding Fingal
	RURAL	Galway

PRIVATE RENT COSTS

Dwelling Size	Weekly Cost	90% of Avg Rent	Dublin Average Rent
One Bed	273.06	1,183.27	1,314.74
Two Bed	341.57	1,480.15	1,644.61
Three Bed	372.22	1,612.94	1,792.15

Data source:

RTB Average Monthly Rent Report (Euro) by Location, Property Type and Number of Bedrooms - 2019Q4

Accessed

23/04/2021

LEARN MORE AT

Budgeting.ie – MISc.ie – JusticeMatters.ie – Vote.ie

VPSJ WORKING



Active Citizenship



MESL Research



Advocacy



Networking

FOR CHANGE

ABOUT THE VPSJ

The VPSJ is a Vincentian initiative, established in 1995, to work for social and economic change, tackling poverty and social exclusion.

The VPSJ's distinctiveness comes from the Vincentian focus on the dignity and potential of every human being, and in particular on people who experience disadvantage.

This translates into a commitment to working with people living with social and economic exclusion, in order to bring about the change necessary for a more just and inclusive Ireland.

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