



# Poverty and inequality in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States

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The CISSTAT collects and analyses data on standards of living with a strong focus on poverty and wealth disparity.

The CISTAT has delivered the following papers at the UNECE seminars on poverty measurement:

- Analysis of methods for measuring poverty in the CIS countries (Geneva, 2-4 December 2013);
- Poverty measurement in the CIS countries: issues of data comparability (Geneva, 5-6 May 2015).



## Poverty (1)



The main purpose of statistical measurement of poverty in the CIS countries is to determine the headcount of people requiring social support.

Therefore, the most commonly applied concept is absolute monetary poverty. Here, poverty is a level of material well-being which is not sufficient for ensuring essential subsistence of a person considering social norms and common standards existing in the community.

Some countries use **relative poverty** for official poverty estimates. Relative poverty lines are set at certain levels of median equivalent income/expenditures.



## Poverty (2)



Essential for measuring absolute poverty are:

- ***Well-being measure*** (income, expenditures, consumption), based on which the population is ranked.
- ***Poverty threshold*** (subsistence minimum level, national poverty line).



## Poverty (3)



For constructing distribution series, most CIS countries use consumption aggregates as well-being measures, the others use income.

Aggregates include cash income/expenditures as well as estimated value of food and non-food goods and services which households without paying for them.

In-kind benefits and transfers considerably vary in the CIS countries, in terms of structure and valuation methods.

National poverty estimates cannot be used for comparisons across countries which is due to the different methodologies used for estimating poverty rates.



## Poverty (4)



### Proportion of population below national poverty line (income/expenditures) (% of total population)

	2001	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015
Azerbaijan	49.0	9.1	6.0	5.3	5.0	4.9
Armenia	...	35.8	32.4	32.0	30.0	...
Belarus	28.9	5.2	6.3	5.5	4.8	5.1
Kazakhstan	46.7	6.5	3.8	2.9	2.8	2.7
Kyrgyzstan	56.4	33.7	38.0	37.0	30.6	32.1
Moldova	54.6	21.9	16.6	12.7	11.4	...
Russia	27.5	12.5	10.7	10.8	11.2	13.3
Tajikistan	81.0 <sup>1</sup>	46.7 <sup>2</sup>	...	35.6	32.0	...
Uzbekistan	27.5	17.7	15.0	14.1	...	...
Ukraine	83.7	8.6	9.0	8.3	8.6	...

<sup>1</sup> 1999.

<sup>2</sup> 2009.



## Income/expenditures inequality (1)



Within the diversity of inequalities, economic inequality is the most explored type. It represents the differences between different population groups by level of well-being (income, expenditures).

For studying inequality, most CIS countries use:

- Gini coefficient (measure of income/expenditures distribution);
- R/P 10% ratio;
- Income/expenditure inequality decile ratio;
- Population distribution by per capita income/expenditures;
- Distribution of total monetary income/expenditures by demographic groups (quintiles or deciles).



## Income/expenditures inequality (2)



### Gini coefficient

	Income-based			Based on consumption expenditures (disposable resources)		
	2001	2010	2014	2001	2010	2014
Armenia	0.535	0.362	0.373	0.344	0.265	0.272
Belarus	-	-	-	0.278	0.265	0.275
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	0.366	0.278	0.278
Kyrgyzstan	0.441	0.371	0.429	...	0.251	0.209
Moldova	0.428	0.408	0.370	0.380	0.302	0.250
Russia	0.397	0.421	0.416	-	-	-
Ukraine	...	0.274	0.240	0.340	...	...





## Income/expenditures inequality (3)



### Monetary income distribution by population quintiles (2014, %)

	Total monetary income	Including by population quintiles:				
		I (lowest income)	II	III	IV	V (highest income)
Azerbaijan	100	13.7	16.2	18.6	21.7	29.8
Armenia	100	5.3	10.7	15.0	21.4	47.6
Belarus	100	9.4	13.7	17.1	22.0	37.8
Kazakhstan	100	9.4	13.2	17.1	22.4	37.9
Kyrgyzstan	100	5.2	10.2	13.9	20.0	50.7
Moldova	100	6.0	11.8	16.4	23.1	42.7
Russia	100	5.2	9.9	14.9	22.6	47.4
Ukraine	100	10.5	14.6	17.7	22.1	35.1



Accessibility of education can be characterized by such indicators as **educational attainment** and **enrolment rates** at different educational levels.

The data from recent 2010 population censuses demonstrate quite high educational **attainment** amongst the population of the CIS countries.

The largest differences in the CIS countries are found in tertiary education **enrolment rates**. In Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, there are 51-60 tertiary students per 1,000 population (2011 ISCED, levels 5-8), in Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine – 34-41 students, and in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan - 27 and 23 students respectively.

The proportion of female students in 2014 was 49-55% in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine; 57-58% in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Moldova; and 32% in Tajikistan.



Increasing inequality in health issues is a pressing issue in the CIS countries.

The key sources of data for exploring the issue are regular and one-time household surveys which enable obtaining the data on the following:

- overall health assessment;
- health examination or treatment needs;
- limits in activities due to health issues;
- different modalities of receiving medical care;
- reasons of inability to receive medical care;
- distance to nearest health facility.

The differences in survey programmes prevent comparisons across countries due to the differences in assessment criteria and question wordings.



***Thank you for attention!***

***CIS Interstate Statistical Committee***

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