

COUNTRY FACT SHEET ON RBs: IRELAND

| IRELAND | |
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| 2006 | |
| Name | Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL) MEBS – Minimum Essential Budget Standards |
| Year of first construction | 2006 |
| State of use | Widely used by numerous NGOs, Statutory Agencies and Government Departments |
| Key moments | 2001: One Long Struggle - A Study of Low Income Households 2004: Low Cost but Acceptable Budget Standards for Three Households 2006: Minimum Essential Standards of Living for 6 Households Types (Urban) 2010: Minimum Essential Standards of Living for 6 Households Types (Rural) 2012: A Minimum Income Standard for Ireland 2013: Minimum Income Standard Calculator www.misc.ie 2014: Living Wage Technical Document 2016: Cost of a Healthy Food Basket in Northern Ireland 2016: Cost of a Healthy Food Basket in Republic of Ireland 2017: MESL for a Single Adult with Vision Impairment 2018: Stories of Struggle- Experiences of living below the Minimum Essential Standard of Living |
| Geographical focus | Republic of Ireland |
| Data used | <p>Government – Budget and Policy Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data used in national Budget cycle • VPSJ consulted by Government Departments on MESL analysis • Pre-Budget Forum • National Economic Dialogue • MESL impact analysis of Budget measures • Multiple NGOs use MESL data in their advocacy work to Government. <p>MESL Based Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Welfare and Minimum Wage adequacy assessment • Living Wage • Personal Insolvency – RLE (Reasonable Living Expenses) • Food Poverty benchmark (all island, includes NI research) • Energy Poverty |
| Household types | 90% of population including the following households 1 and 2 Parents Households with 1-4 Children, Single Adult of working Age, Pensioner Couple, Pensioner Living Alone, Co-habiting Couple without Children and Adult with Vision Impairment. |
| Institutions involved | VPSJ Centre for Budget Standards Research |
| Key publications | See below The full list of publications are available here www.budgeting.ie |
| Updates | Updates – yearly pricing, periodic rebasing. |
| Last update | 2018 |

Reference: EU Platform on Reference Budgets (2018). Country fact sheet on reference budgets in Ireland, October, 2018, Antwerp: EPRB.

All available publications about RBs in Ireland

Collins, M.L., Mac Mahon, B., Weld, G., Thornton, R. (2012). *A Minimum Income Standard for Ireland - A Consensual Budget Standards study examining household type across the life cycle*, Studies in Public

Policy, 27. Dublin: Vicentian Partnership for Social Justice (VPSJ) and the Policy Institute at Trinity College Dublin.

Mac Mahon, B. (2009). Minimum Essential Budget Standards in Ireland. In: Moser, M., Horak, G. (eds.), *Money Matters - Reference Budgets for Social Inclusion* (6), p. 10-11. Varna: ECDN. European Consumer Debt Network.

Mac Mahon, B., Carey, J., Stokes, A. (2006). *Minimum Essential Budget Standards (MEBS) for 6 Household Types. Lone Parent and Two Children, Two Parents and Two Children, Two Parents with Teenager, Pensioner Couple, Lone Female Pensioner and Single Male Adult*. Dublin: VPSJ.

MacMahon, B., Weld, G. (2015a). *The cost of a minimum essential food basket in the Republic of Ireland. Study for six household types*. Dublin: safefood and VPSJ.

MacMahon, B., Weld, G. (2015b). *The cost of a minimum essential food basket in Northern Ireland. Pilot study for two household types*. Dublin: safefood and VPSJ.

MacMahon, B., Moloney, N. (2016a). *What is the cost of a healthy food basket in the Republic of Ireland in 2016?*. Dublin: safefood and VPSJ.

MacMahon, B., Moloney, N. (2016b). *What is the cost of a healthy food basket in Northern Ireland in 2016*. Dublin: safefood and VPSJ.

Mac Mahon, B., Weld, G., Thornton, R. (2010). *Minimum Essential Budgets for Households in Rural Areas. Six Household Types in Rural Areas*. Dublin: VPSJ.

Mac Mahon, B., Weld, G., Thornton, R. (2012a). 2012 Review of the Minimum Essential Standard of Living Baskets and the addition of the 3rd and 4th Child to the Dataset. Dublin: VPSJ.

Mac Mahon, B., Weld, G., Thornton, R., Collins, M.L. (2012b). *The Cost of a Child. A consensual budget standards study examining the direct cost of a child across childhood. A Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice research report*. Dublin: VPSJ.

Mac Mahon, B., Weld, G., Thornton, R. (2013). *Minimum Essential Budget Standard*. Dublin: VPSJ. [PowerPoint presentation]

VPSJ (2018). *Stories of Struggle: Experiences of Living Below the Minimum Essential Standard of Living*. Dublin: VPSJ

VPSJ (2015). *The Cost of a Healthy Food Basket: Pilot study for six household types in the Republic of Ireland*. Dublin: VPSJ

VPSJ (2001). *One Long Struggle - A Study of Low Income Households*. Dublin: VPSJ.