Banc Ceannais na hÉireann
Central Bank of Ireland
Eurosystem

Quarterly Household Wealth Report

Q2 – 2026

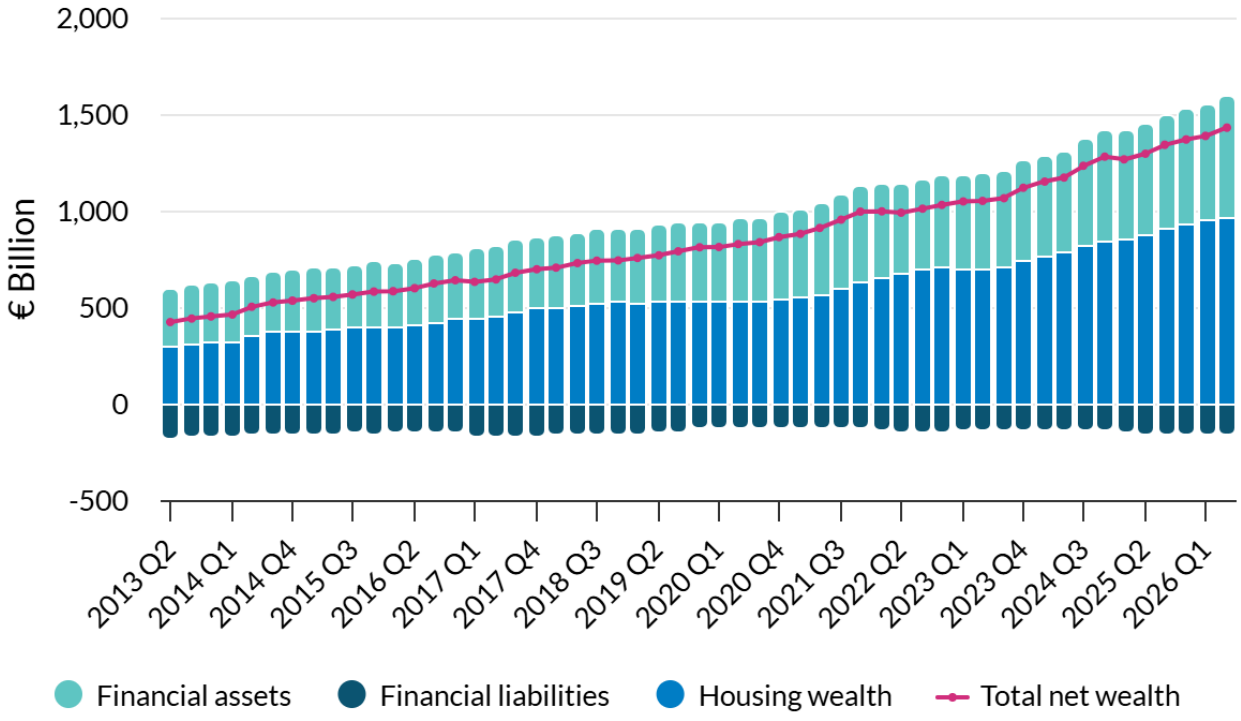
November 2026

Quarterly Household Wealth Report

Key Points – Q2 2026

- The net wealth of Irish households reached €1,429.5bn at the end of Q2 2026, increasing by €42.8bn since the previous quarter.
- Total household investment of €8.7bn over the quarter was mainly driven by investment in new housing assets.
- The total value of housing assets owned by Irish households increased by €11.1bn since the previous quarter, largely due to positive revaluations.
- Wealth concentration among Ireland's richest households has declined over the past decade. As of Q2 2026, the wealthiest 10 per cent held 47.0 per cent of total household net wealth, compared with 53.9 per cent in Q2 2016.

Chart 1: Total net wealth of Irish households



Source: QFA statistics and Central Bank estimates. Full series available through the chart menu.

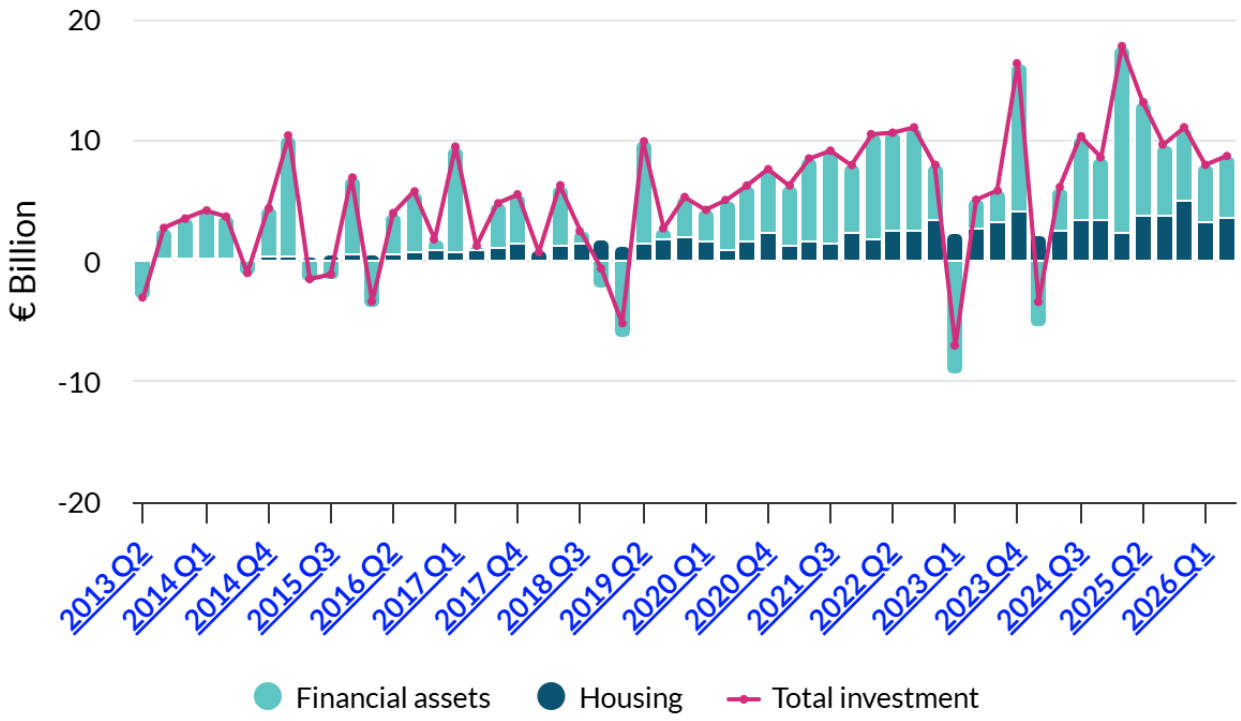
Total net wealth of Irish households rose by €42.8bn to stand at €1,429.5bn in Q2 2026. This represents a new series high, continuing the pattern of growth seen in recent years.

The overall increase in net wealth was mainly driven by a rise in financial assets of €35.3bn. Positive revaluations accounted for €29.8bn of this increase, while transactions contributed €5.1bn. Households' total financial assets stood at €635.9bn at the end of Q2 2026 and were mainly composed of currency and deposits (€225.2bn) and insurance and pension entitlements (€295.7bn).

Housing wealth accounts for 66.9 per cent of total net wealth and 60.1 per cent of the total assets of Irish households. It increased by €11.1bn over the quarter, largely due to positive revaluations.

Total liabilities increased by €3.5bn to €162.5bn, predominantly driven a net incurrence in long-term loans of €5.9bn over the quarter.

Chart 2: Quarterly investment of Irish households, by instrument

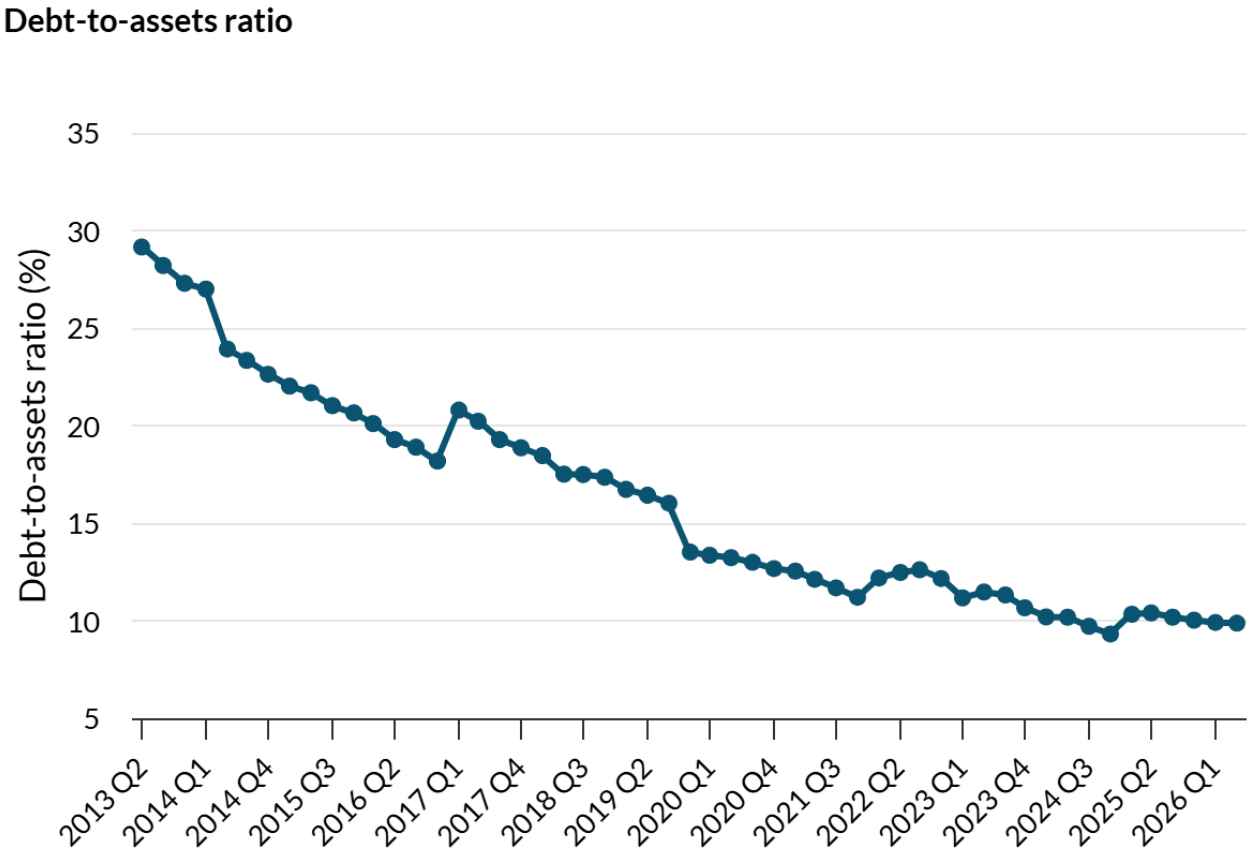


Source: QFA statistics and Central Bank estimates. Full series available through the chart menu.

Households' total investment in new housing and financial assets totalled €8.7bn in Q2 2026. Of this, investment in new housing equalled €3.6bn, which is €0.5bn higher than in the previous quarter. Financial investments were primarily in currency and deposits (€3.3bn), and insurance and pension entitlements (€2.3bn).

In recent years, Irish households have generally displayed positive quarterly investment in housing and financial instruments.

Chart 3: Household leverage indicators

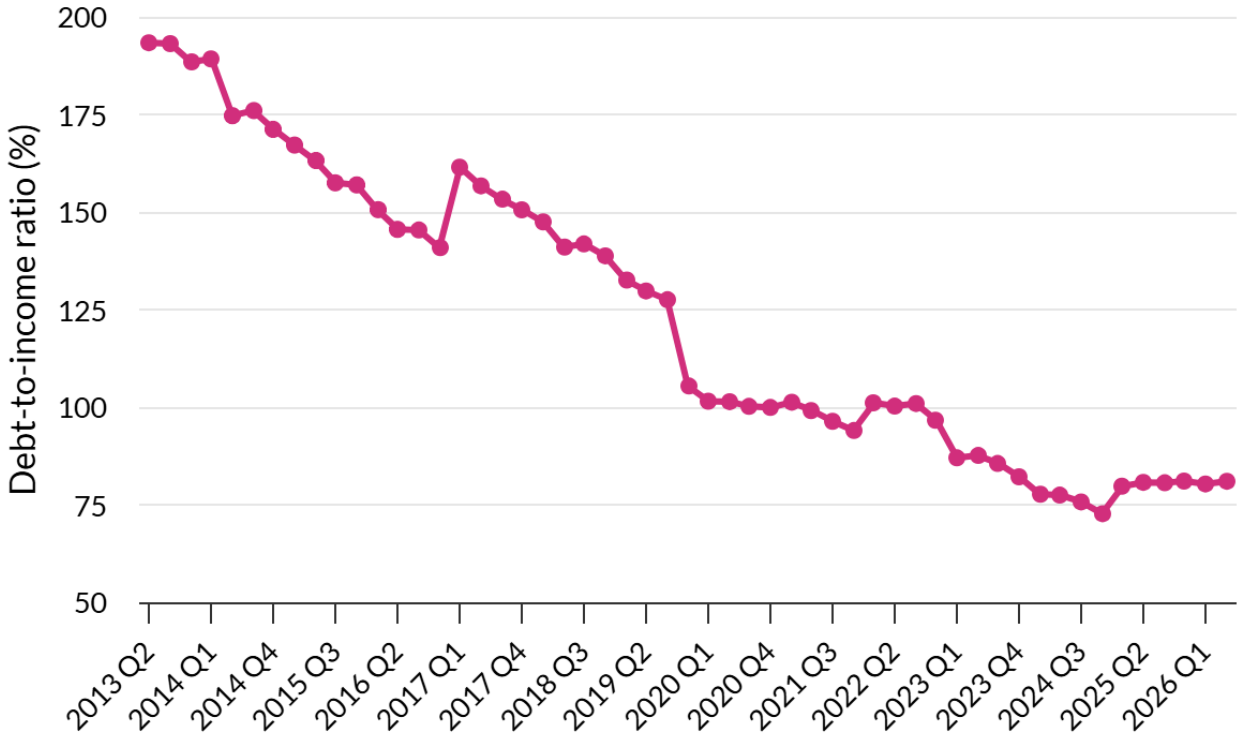


Source: QFA statistics and Central Bank estimates. Full series available through the chart menu.

Total household assets increased by €42.8bn since the previous quarter. In Q2 2026, the household debt-to-assets ratio remained broadly unchanged at 9.9 per cent, with household loans increasing by €3.9bn to stand at €157.1bn.

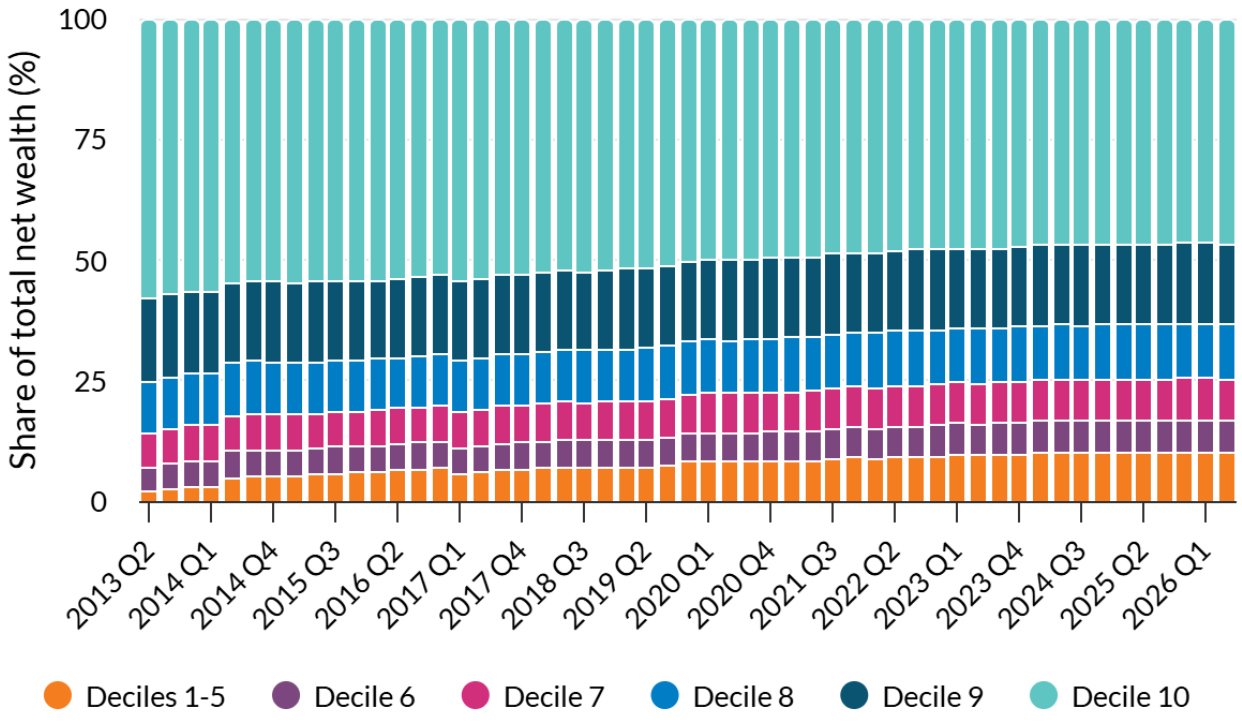
The debt-to-income ratio of Irish households also marginally increased, reaching 81.0 per cent at the end of the quarter. Data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) shows that household gross disposable income (on an annualised basis) equalled €194.0bn as of Q2 2026.

Debt-to-income ratio



Source: QFA statistics and CSO. Full series available through the chart menu.

Chart 4: Total net wealth of Irish households, by wealth decile



Source: DWA statistics. Full series available through the chart menu.

Distributional Wealth Accounts (DWA) data[1] provide insights on the distribution of wealth across Irish households.

As of Q2 2026, the top 10 per cent of Irish households owned €686.7bn, or 47.0 per cent of total household net wealth in the country.

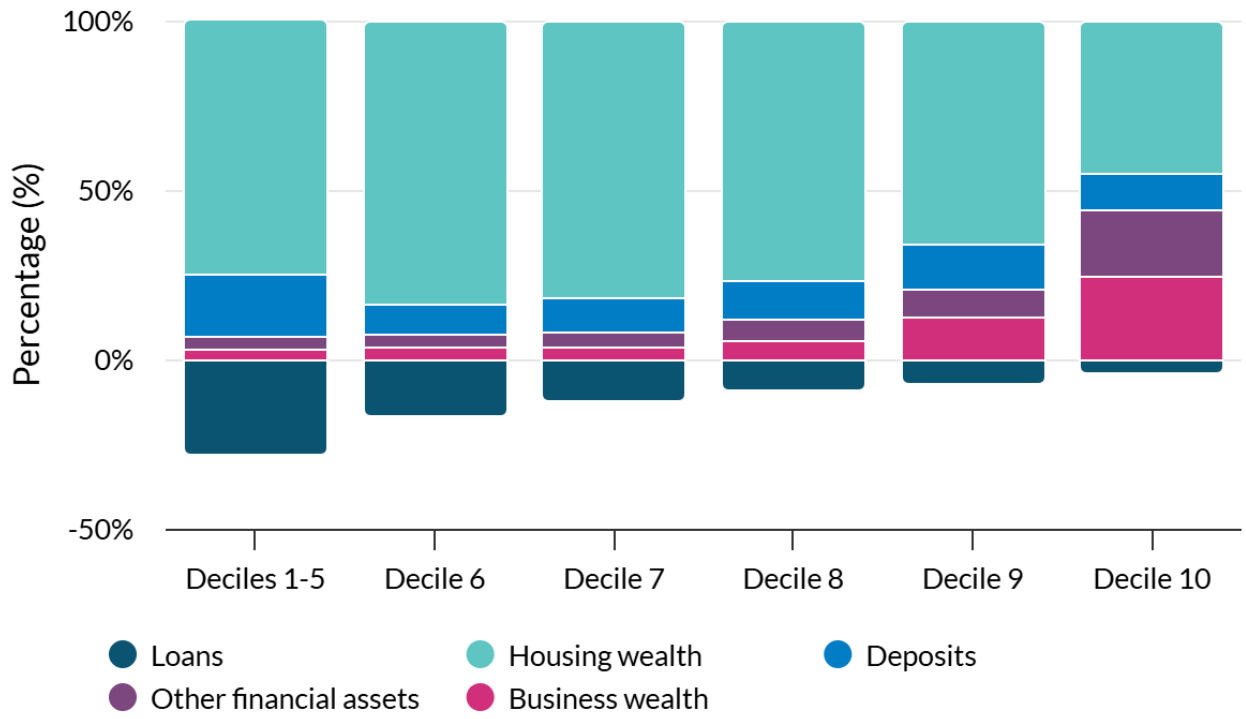
The total net wealth of households in the bottom 50 per cent of the distribution increased by €3.0bn (2.1 per cent) to stand at €145.3bn, or 9.9 per cent of the national total.

As a result, the wealthiest 10 per cent of Irish households continued to hold nearly five times the amount held by households in the bottom half of the net wealth distribution altogether.

Households in the "middle" part of the distribution (i.e., those in deciles 6 to 9) owned €629.4bn overall, or 43.1 per cent of total net wealth in the country at quarter-end.

[1] Distributional wealth data is sourced from experimental Distributional Wealth Accounts ("DWA"), published by the European Central Bank. This dataset adopts a different methodology than Quarterly Financial Accounts so far used in this report. Information on how the two data sources compare, and further details on the DWA's compilation are available on the dedicated Data Portal webpage.

Chart 5: Irish household wealth composition, by wealth decile



Source: DWA statistics. Full series available through the chart menu.

The balance sheet composition of Irish households differs significantly between the top and bottom deciles.

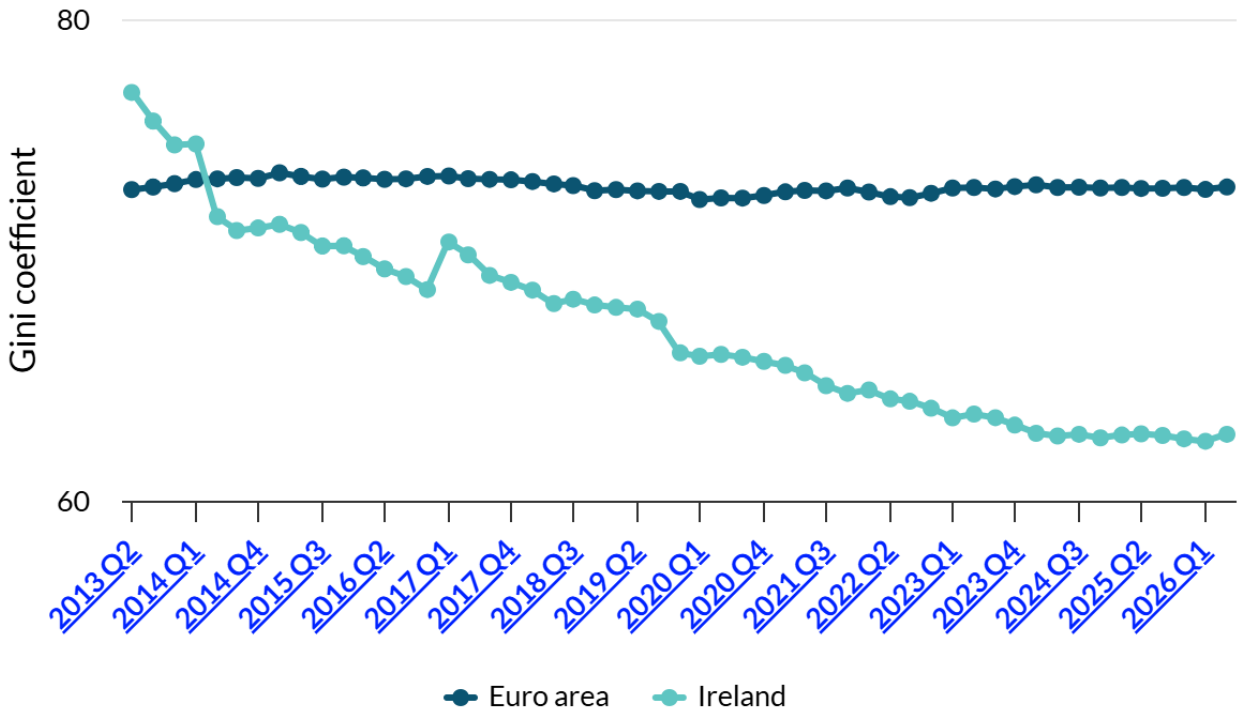
Overall, as of Q2 2026, households in the top 10 per cent net wealth decile displayed a more diversified portfolio composition: other financial assets (i.e., debt securities, listed shares, investment fund shares, and life insurance and annuity entitlements) featured prominently, accounting for 19.4 per cent of total assets. Wealthier households also displayed lower leverage (3.9 per cent), when compared to households in the bottom half of the wealth distribution.

Conversely, households in the lower deciles held their financial wealth mainly in deposits (18.5 per cent of their total assets) and were significantly more leveraged (28.1 per cent).

For all household groups, housing assets represent the main component of their wealth.

Since the beginning of the series, the balance sheet composition of households in each wealth decile has remained generally stable over time.

Chart 6: Gini coefficient of wealth inequality



Source: DWA statistics. Full series available through the chart menu.

As of Q2 2026, the Irish Gini coefficient (a widely used measurement of wealth inequality) was 62.8.

This remained well below the value of the same index for the euro area as a whole (73.0) and of most other European countries, as it has been for the past years. Moreover, since the beginning of the series, the Gini coefficient for Ireland decreased significantly, indicating a notable reduction in the level of wealth inequality in the country.

The sustained de-leveraging process of poorer households and the rise in value of housing assets over the years – which mainly benefited households for whom this asset represents a larger component of their total wealth (i.e., mid-lower deciles) – drove the increase in the share of total net wealth held by the poorest half of households. As a result, net wealth inequality in Ireland significantly decreased since the beginning of the series.

Across the wider euro area, high homeownership rates and strong house price growth also lowered wealth inequality in Luxembourg, Estonia, Malta, Slovakia, and Portugal, though none matched the scale of Ireland's decline since 2013.[2]

[2] Eurofound (2025), *Unequal wealth: Exploring socioeconomic disparities across the EU*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

Further information

This release complements Irish Quarterly Financial Accounts (QFA) data for the household sector with estimates for Irish households' holdings of housing assets.

Full QFA data series for Ireland 2002 Q1 to present and other information are available from the Central Bank website: https://www.centralbank.ie/statistics/data-and-analysis/financial-accounts

Distributional Wealth Accounts (DWA) are experimental statistics produced by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). They complement macroeconomic sector accounts with distributional information for the household sector. Full DWA series are available from the ECB website: https://data.ecb.europa.eu/data/datasets/DWA

For details on disposable income see the Central Statistical Office (CSO) releases on Institutional Sector Accounts Non-Financial Assets, available from the CSO website: https://www.cso.ie



T: +353 (0)1 224 5800
E: publications@centralbank.ie
www.centralbank.ie



Banc Ceannais na hÉireann
Central Bank of Ireland
Eurosystem