

**Intensità lavorativa e povertà.**

**Dimensioni di deprivazione delle famiglie lavoratrici e non**

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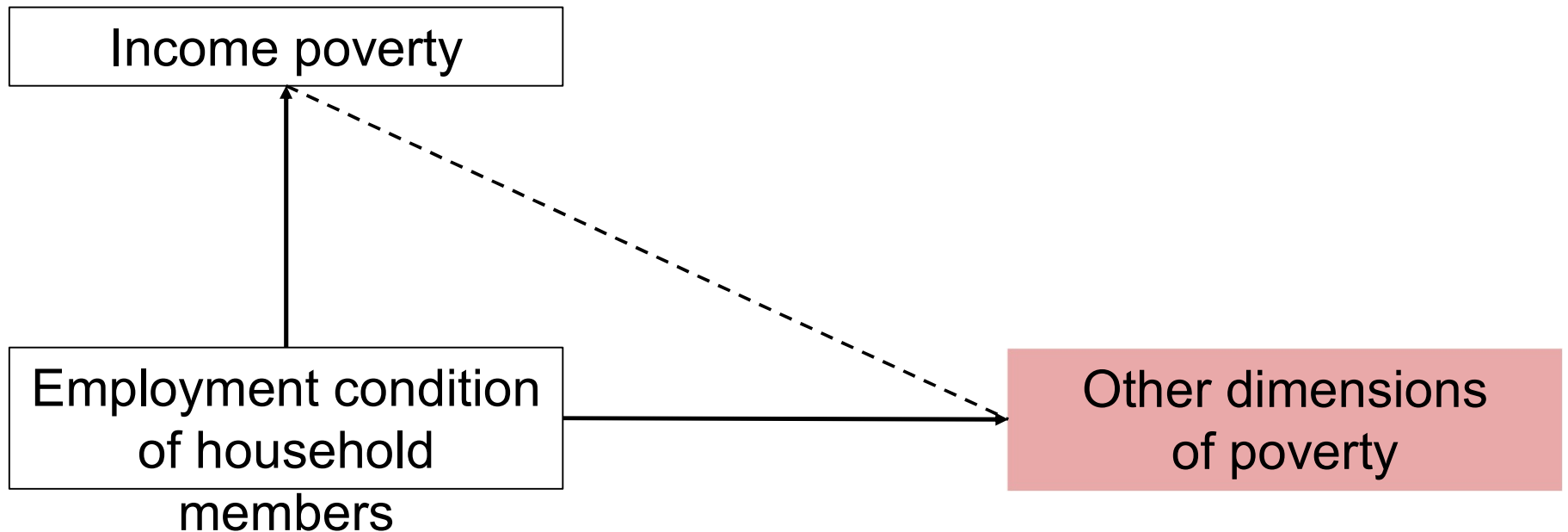
## *Introduction and motivation*

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- Employment status and poverty in Europe
- Employment status, wellbeing and social networks (Hick & Lanau, 2018; Guio, Marguerit & Salagean, 2021)
- Definition of worker: full-time, employed for at least 3, 6, 9 or 12 months and the threshold of economic poverty (50% of the mean, 60% of the median)
- Few studies on poverty have adopted analytical perspectives beyond the use of objective monetary indicators (see, for example, Filandri, Pasqua and Struffolino, 2020; Colombarolli, 2022)
- In Italy, IWP is a growing phenomenon (approximately 11.5 in 2022), which is one of the highest in Europe
- Implications for policy makers to improve the population well-being

The aim of the study is twofold:

- 1) To investigate the multidimensionality of disadvantages considering several dimensions of poverty
- 2) To investigate the role of employment condition of household members in protecting from *several* dimensions of poverty (i.e. household working conditions)



## *Working conditions and poverty*

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- Employment status and dimensions of disadvantage: economic poverty (De Graaf-Zijl and Nolan, 2011), material deprivation (Crettaz, 2015; Wolf et al., 2022), subjective economic condition (Colombarolli, 2021)
- Poverty is associated with low levels of work intensity and high levels of job instability (household working conditions, Crettaz, 2013; Filandri et al., 2020)
  - number of workers
  - number of fulltime equivalent workers in the income reference period within the household (work intensity, EUROSTAT, 2025)
  - share of working household members with a temporary contract (job instability)
- *Which matters more: stability (defined in terms of either quantity or quality) or the number of workers?*

## *Multidimensional poverty*

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### *concept*

There is widespread agreement on the need to conceptualize poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon

Low income is surely at the heart of the notion of poverty, but several other domains are systematically concerned by inadequate living standards

Which dimensions matter and who should be selecting them are questions that repeatedly raise issues of ethics and legitimacy, as well as scientific measurement

Selecting deprivation indicators requires sensitive decisions, although they end up being data-driven in most cases, especially when the poverty analysis is based on the counting of deprivations framework (Alkire *et al.*, 2015)

While income level measures an objective and monetary dimension, other poverty indicators that measure subjective and non-monetary dimensions are crucial

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While income level measures an objective and monetary dimension, other poverty indicators that measure subjective and non-monetary dimensions are crucial

	Monetary	Non-monetary
Objective	Income poverty (mean 50%, median 60%)	Material deprivation (Housing hardship)
Subjective	Subjective poverty (Financial vulnerability)	Relational poverty (Poor personal relationship)

*Other dimensions of disadvantage (poverty)*

## *Italian context*

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- Italy has one of the highest IWP rates in Europe (11.5% vs. 8.4% EU average in 2022)
  - IWP rose from 8.9% (2005) to 11.5% (2022) - (+2.9 pp)
  - Relevant differences across Italian regions (Colombarolli, 2021)
- Since the mid-1990s, labour market deregulation (Treu package, Biagi law, Fornero law, Jobs Act) and weak welfare protections have produced high levels of precarious, low-intensity, and involuntary atypical jobs.
- Flexibilization fostered precariousness, under-employment, and dualisation rather than reducing inequalities.
- No minimum wage and persistence of single-income households exacerbate IWP.

## *Research questions and hypothesis*

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1. To what extent income poverty is associated with different dimensions of disadvantage (poverty) in Europe?
2. To what extent the employment condition of household members affects the relationship between income poverty and different dimensions of disadvantage in Europe?

Hp1: Income poverty is associated with subjective monetary indicators more than non-monetary indicators

*People assess monetary poverty mainly on the basis of their objective income condition*

Hp2: Employment condition of household members protect from all dimensions of disadvantage for poor and non-poor households

*Being employed is associated with a sense of security and well-being*

Hp3: The accumulation of disadvantages reflects the interaction between income poverty and employment condition of household members

*Severe disadvantage is the result of the lack of both income and employment (result of the accumulation of risk situations)*

Hp4: Despite differences in socio-economic contexts, similarities exist in the relationship between poverty dimensions and household employment status across

## *Data, variables, method*

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### ❖ Data

- Cross-sectional data from the IT EU-SILC survey (Eurostat, 2023, release 2)
- Three survey waves: 2013-2018-2022 (ad-hoc module on household and individual well-being)
- No households were surveyed more than once (Dewilde, 2022)

❖ Sample (N=14,197) - **Couples** aged between 25-59 (no income from pension, not more than six household components, not intergenerational households)

### ❖ Dependent variables - **Four dimensions of poverty (dummies)**

1. Economic poverty

- Disposable household income (adjusted by the OECD-modified scale) is below 60% of the population median household income

2. Subjective poverty

- Households that make ends meet “*with great difficulty*” or “*with difficulty*”

3. Material deprivation

- Experiencing an enforced lack of at least 5 out of 13 deprivation items (Guio *et al.*, 2017)

4. Relational poverty

- Experiencing a lack of both material and non-material support from relatives, friends, neighbours or other persons

5. Severe cumulative poverty

- At least 3 out of 4 poverty dimensions

## *Data, variables,*

### *method*

#### ❖ Independent variables

##### **1. Employment condition HH in the income reference period (*previous year*)**

- Working HH: Households with one or two adult workers
- Non-Working HH: Households with all unemployed/inactive members

##### **2. Work intensity – continuous measure (0-1) (*previous year*)**

- Ratio of the total number of months that all working-age household members (25-59) have worked during the income [reference year](#) and the total number of months the same household members theoretically could have worked in the same period (Eurostat, 2025)
- Worked months are measured in terms of full-time equivalent

##### **3. Work intensity – quantitative and qualitative measure (nr of workers, part-time vs. full-time, temporary vs. permanent contract – incl. self-empl.) (*current position*)**

*\*strong correlation between previous and current position*

- *Quantity of work* (no workers, 1 wrk part-time, 1 wrk, 2 wrks part-time, 2 wrks)
- *Quality of work* (no workers, 1 wrk temporary, 1 wrk, 2 wrks temporary, 2 wrks)
- *Quantity and quality of work* (no workers, 1 wrk part-time, 1 wrk temporary, 1 wrk part-time and temporary, 1 wrk, 2 wrks part-time, 2 wrks temporary, 2 wrks part-time and temporary, 2 wrks)

### Control variables

- Age of the oldest member (up to 34, 35-44, or 45-59 years old), educational level according to the dominance criterion (low, medium, high), presence of dependent children (according to Eurostat definition – no vs. yes), tenure status (homeownership, homeownership with mortgage, rent, free-users), foreign status (at least one foreign born in the hh - no vs. yes), macro-regions, number of self-employed, period effects

### ❖ Analytical strategy

- 1) Separate analysis by poverty dimension > separate binomial logistic regressions.
- 2) Distinguishing working vs. non-working households
  - Based on income reference period (very low w.i. = non-working household)
  - Allows for comparison of poverty risks linked to labour market exclusion vs. in-work poverty
- 3) Multidimensional work intensity (current position), combination of
  - **Number of workers**
  - **Quantity:** full-time vs. part-time
  - **Quality:** temporary vs. permanent contracts

# *Results*

\*\*\* PRIMO STEP: probabilità di vivere in povertà per condizione di lavoro (employed non employed - condizione di IERI

\* according to EUROSTAT )

\*\*\* SECONDO STEP: probabilità di vivere in povertà per work intensity di EUROSTAT - condizione di IERI according to EUROSTAT

\*\*\* SOLO SU FAMIGLIE CHE HANNO WORK INTENSITY EUROSTAT >0

\*\*\* SECONDO STEPbis (da fare): l'effetto di work intensity cambia per dimensione di povertà (vedi AME)

\*\*\* TERZO STEP: e se proviamo a considerare anche la condizione corrente delle famiglie, cambia qualcosa?

\*\*\* guardiamo sul campione che lavorava IERI l'effetto di un'altra definizione di work intensity considerando anche la dimensione di precarietà(?) per coloro che lavorano anche oggi (provato no effetto)

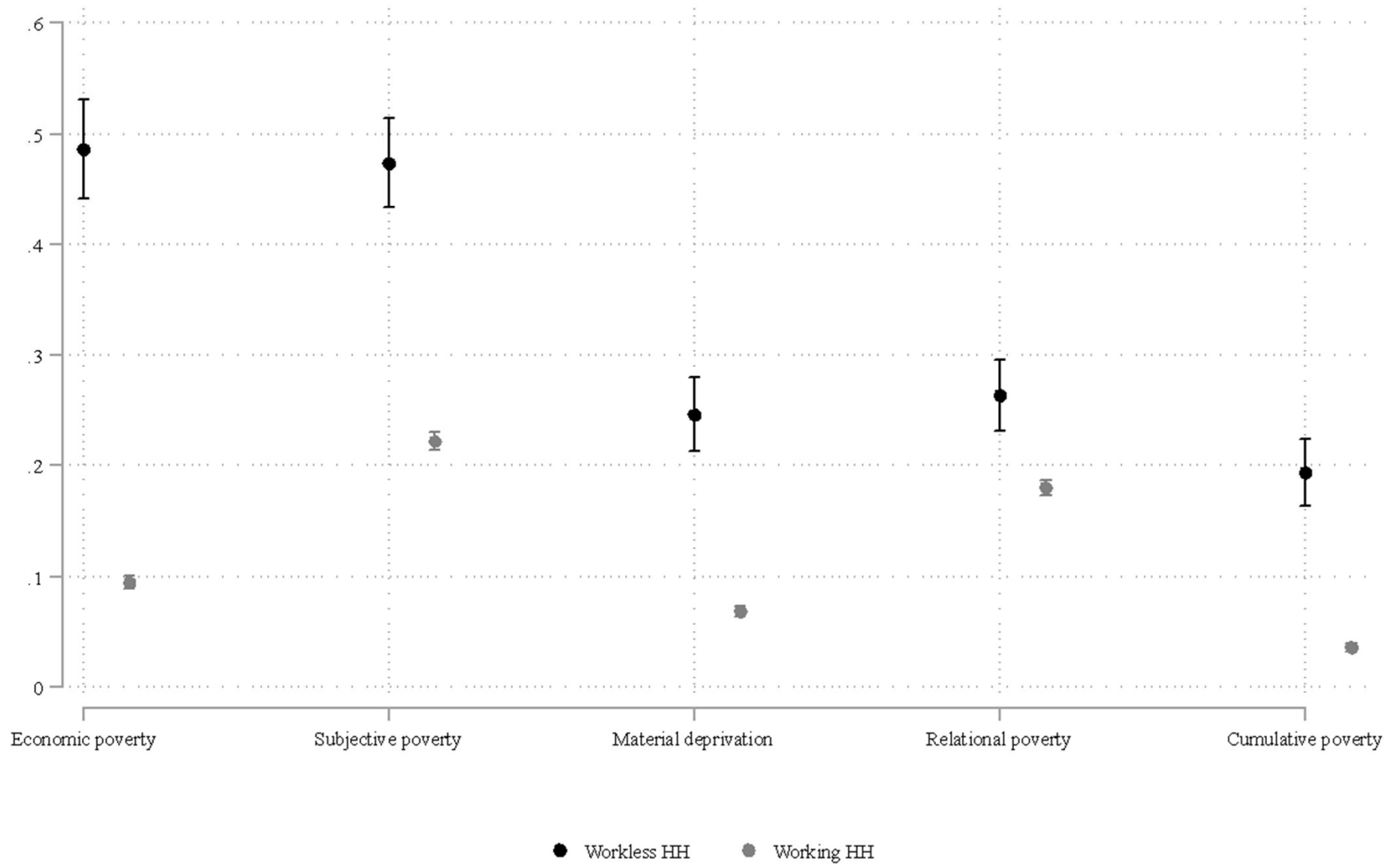
\*\*\* altra soluzione?

\*\*\* guardiamo la nostra misura di work intensity che tiene conto dello status precedente e corrente delle famiglie lavoratrici E NON LAVORATRICI anche?

## Multidimensional poverty and working conditions in Italy

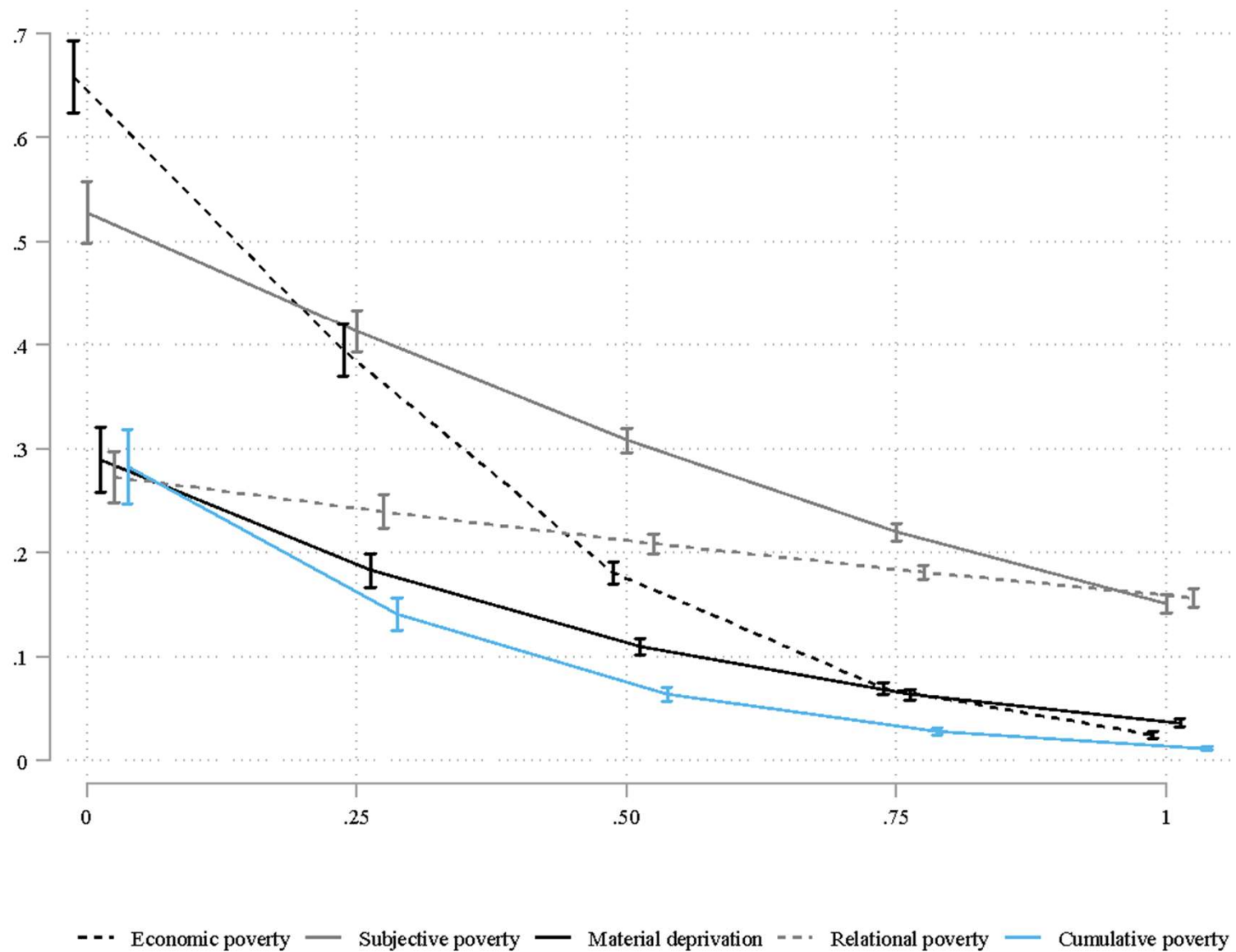
<b>Poverty dimensions</b>										
Economic poverty		Subjective poverty		Mat. deprivation		Relational poverty		Cum. poverty		
16.6		27.5		13.0		20.1		8.8		
<b>Household employment attachment</b>										
Workless HH					Working HH					
5.8					94.2					
<b>Work intensity in the previous year</b>										
0 (very low)		.25 (low)		.50 (medium)		.75 (high)		1 (very high)		
4.5		39.3		31.6		6.1		18.5		
<b>Current work intensity (temporary contract)</b>										
Workless HH		1 wrk temporary		1 wrk		2 wrks temporary		2 wrks		Tot
5.5		8.4		34.1		4.7		47.3		100.0
<b>Current work intensity (par-time position)</b>										
Workless HH		1 wrk part-time		1 wrk		2 wrks part-time		2 wrks		Tot
5.5		7.6		35.0		14.6		37.3		100.0
<b>Current work intensity (both temporary contract and part-time position)</b>										
Workless HH		1 wrk temporary	1 wrk part-time	1 wrk temporary and part-time	1 wrk	2 wrks temporary	2 wrks part-time	2 wrks temporary and part-time	2 wrks	Tot
5.5		3.3	2.4	0.8	31.7	4.6	14.6	4.4	32.7	100.0

## Working and non-working households and risk of poverty

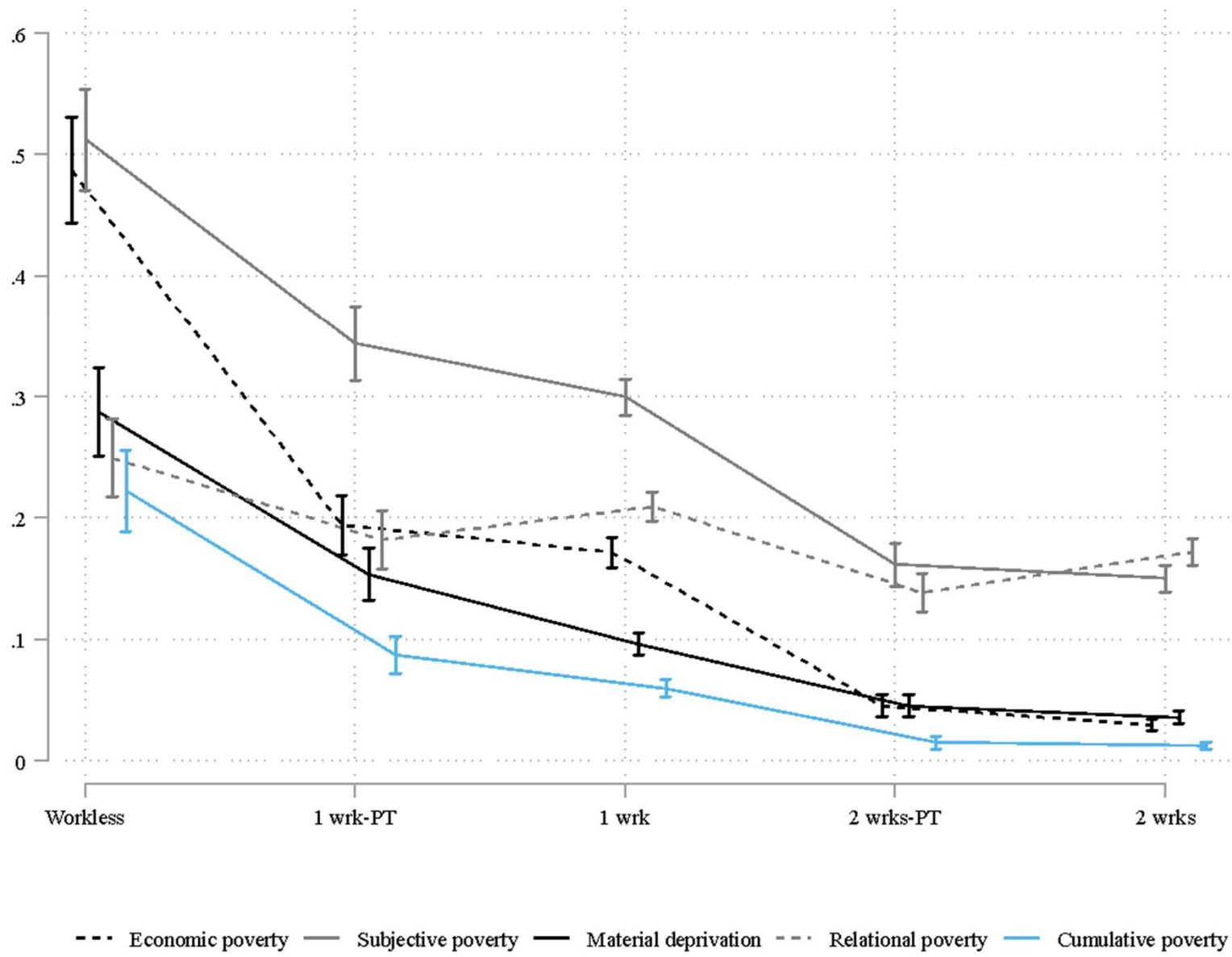


Source: EU-SILC (2013-2018-2022). Authors' calculations (weighted). Note: working condition calculated in the income reference period.

## Work intensity and risk of poverty (eurostat)

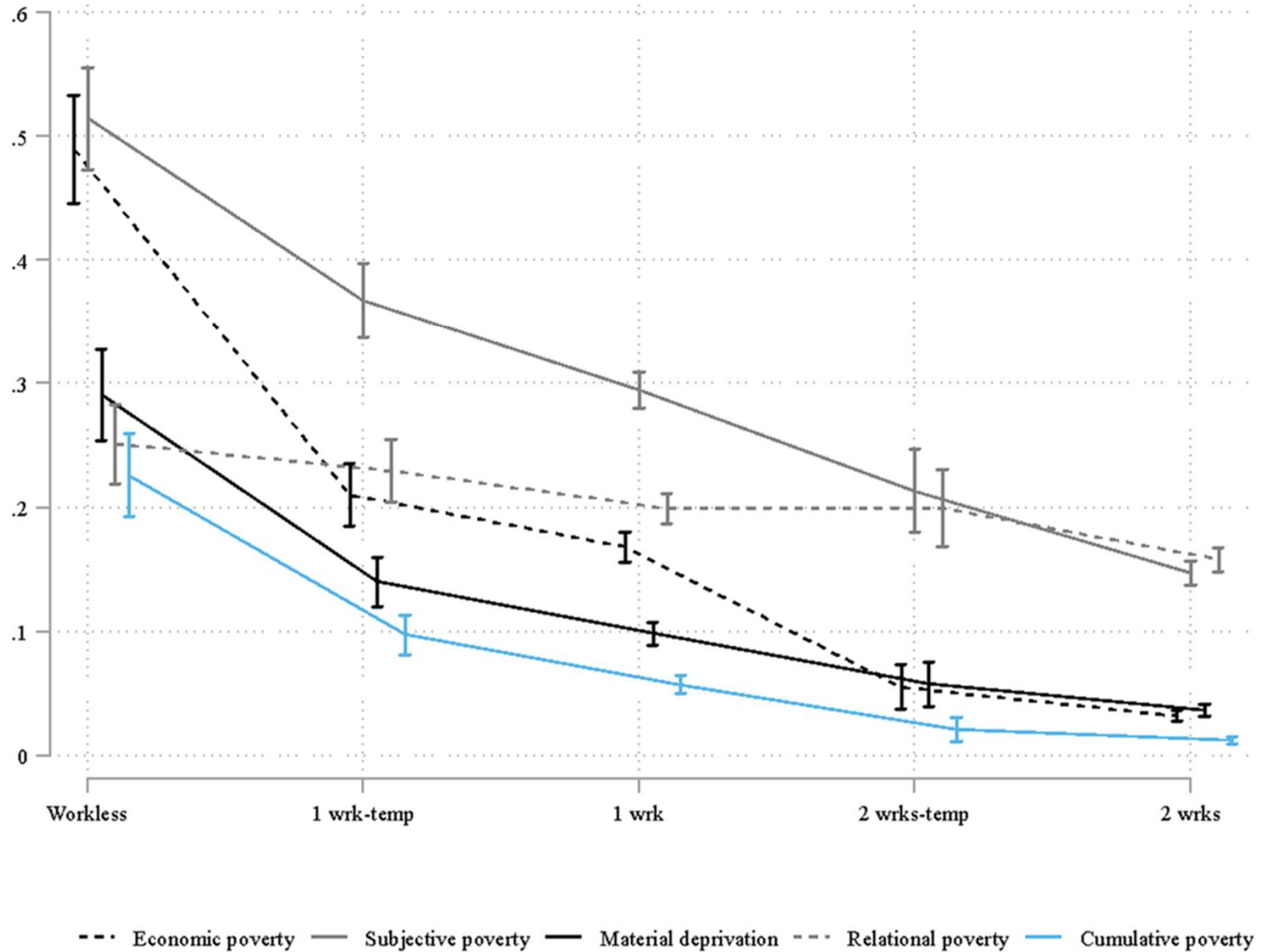


## Work intensity and risk of poverty (quantity – current status)

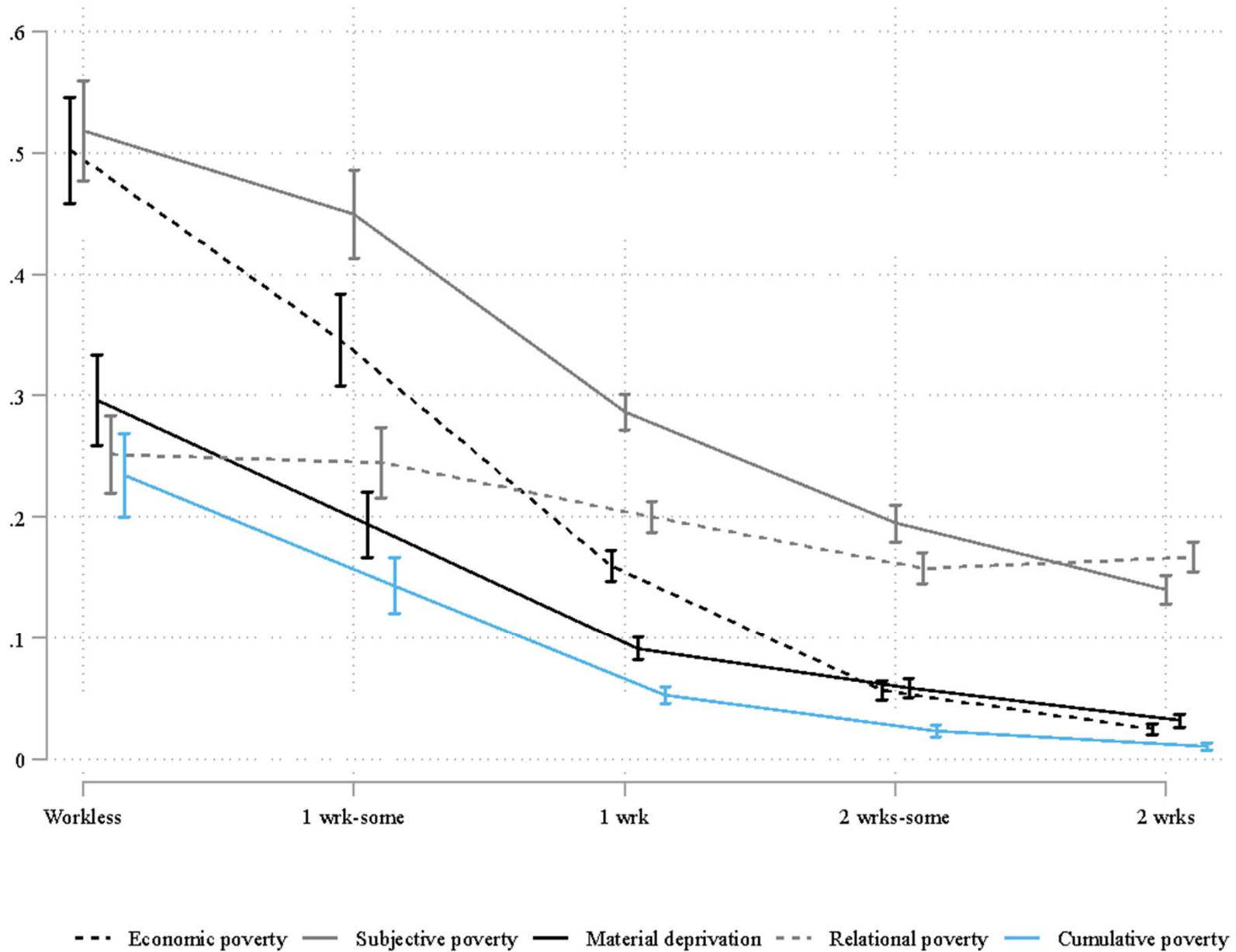


Source: EU-SILC (2013-2018-2022). Authors' calculations (weighted). Note: reference period=current.

## Work intensity and risk of poverty (quality – current status)



## Work intensity and risk of poverty (quality & quantity – current)



Source: EU-SILC (2013-2018-2022). Authors' calculations (weighted). Note: reference period=current.

- **In-work poverty is multidimensional**, even among employed households
- Addressing **multiple poverty dimensions** supports better policy design
- **Work quality matters**: not just hours worked, but job stability and conditions
- **Support for jobless households** is crucial (social protection, activation, anti-poverty measures)
- **More earners per household** = lower poverty risk

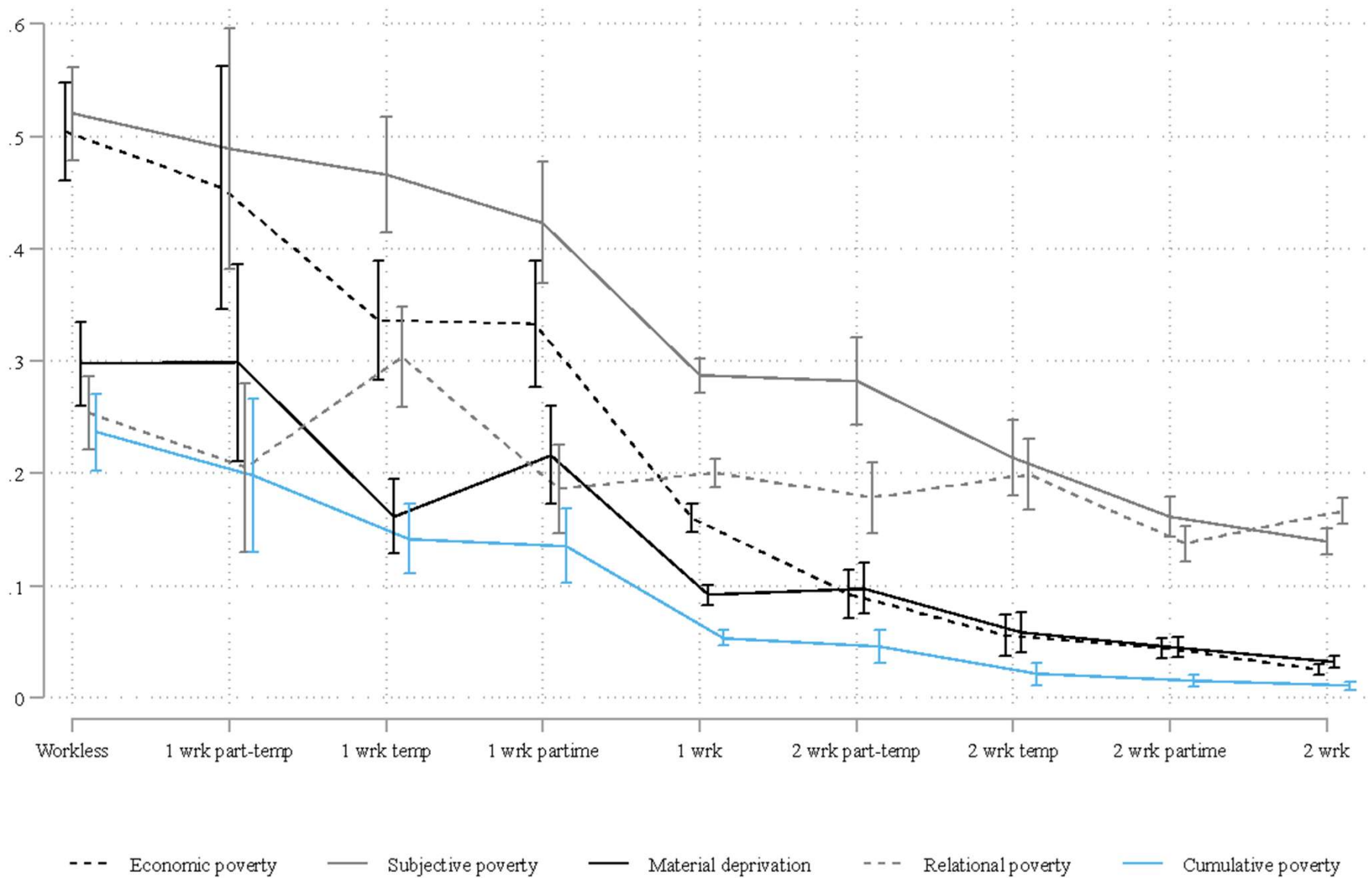
***Thank you for your attention***

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# ***Appendix***

## Work intensity and risk of poverty (quality & quantity – current status)



## Letteratura DA FARE

- 1) Rapporto tra povertà economica e altre forme di povertà
- 2) Rapporto tra condizione di lavoro e non lavoro e povertà
- 3) Rapporto tra condizione di lavoro e altre forme di povertà

Letteratura che ha indagato misure oltre al reddito per i lavoratori:

Pov sog, filandri et al 2020, colombarolli, 2022

Material deprivation, crettaz, 2015; **The standard of living among the poor across Europe. Does employment make a difference?**, wolf et al 2022; **Cheung et al 2019 (Social indicators - Material Deprivation and Working Poor in Hong Kong)**, weon, 2020 (**Multidimensional poverty among working households in South Korea**),

	Income reference period	Current position
Working/Non-working household	No workers (<7 months worked)	Unemployed, inactive
Quantity (full-time/part-time)	Nr of months Full time equivalent	Part-time
Quality (temporary/permanent job)		Temporary contract

Appendix –

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- ❖ Alongside the economic dimension of poverty - which effectively predicts the presence of other dimensions of disadvantage - it is also worth considering the employment condition of household members
- ❖ The effect of income poverty on dimensions of disadvantage is strong as the employment condition of household members
- ❖ In-work poverty should consider several dimension of poverty as they are widespread in the population of working households
- ❖ Considering different dimensions of in-work poverty can also contribute to inform the development of appropriate policy tools to fight poverty
- ❖ Policies to support poor families without employed members are a priority in EU: common challenges through enhanced social protection. employment support. and anti-poverty measures