



Member State Report Austria

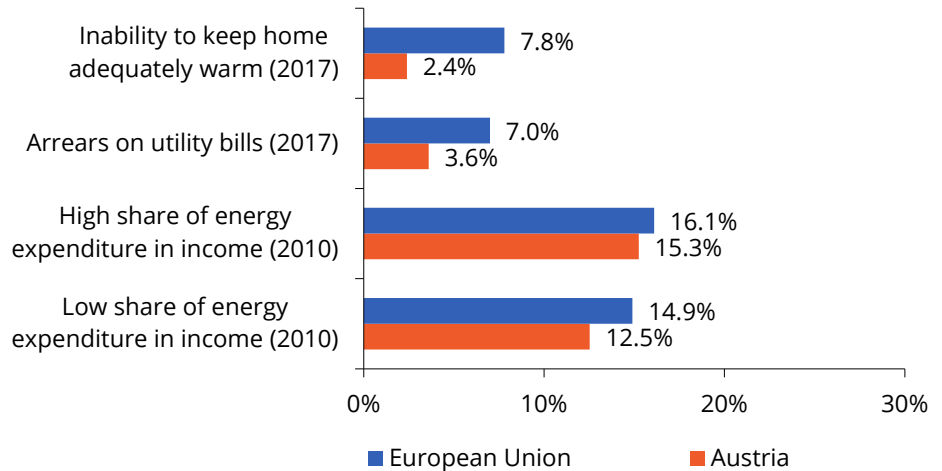
DATA & STATISTICS

This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Austria at a glance. With key indicators, policies and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Austria.

Austria performs better than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. Only 2.4% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and only 3.6% were in arrears on utility bills.

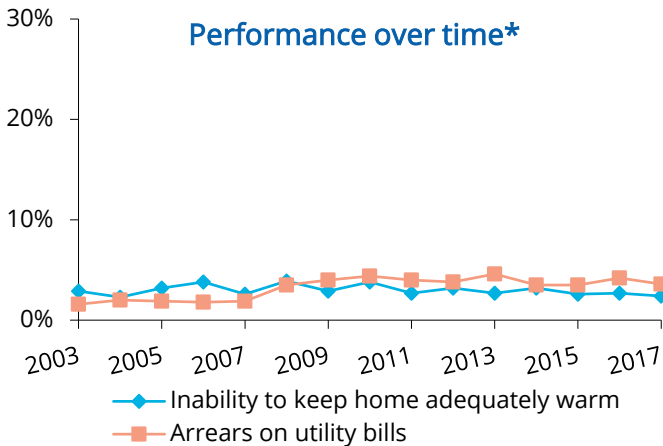
Austria is slightly better than the EU average for expenditure-based indicators. 15.3% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 12.5% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*

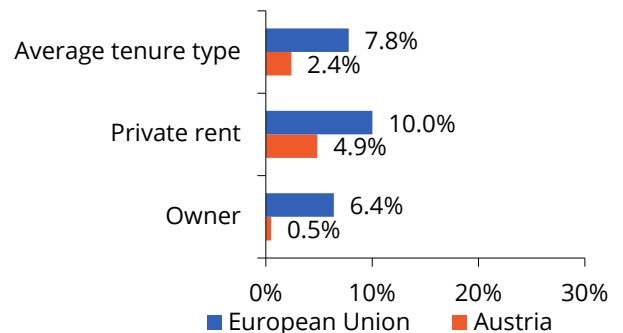


Energy poverty has been fairly stable in Austria. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth has stayed around 2–4% since 2003. The number of households in arrears slightly increased in 2008, but has stabilised since 2010.

Performance over time*



Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Austria is mostly a problem for private tenants. In addition, disaggregated data points to urban households living in apartments as being particularly susceptible to energy poverty. Based on the data, energy poverty is mostly an urban problem in Austria.

About the EU Energy Poverty Observatory

The EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) is an initiative by the European Commission to help Member States in their efforts to combat energy poverty. It exists to improve the measuring, monitoring and sharing of knowledge and best practice on energy poverty. EPOV has been developed by a consortium of 13 organisations. This report was authored by Navigant.

*Household-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on April 16, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of household-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

In Austria, energy poverty has been a topic of discussion in recent years. The media has given the issue considerable attention and in-depth studies have been conducted on the topic. The study of Energie-Control Austria focussed on the measurement of energy poverty and the dissertation of Berger 2016 provides an overview of the development of the energy poverty concept in Austria. A website (fuelpoverty.at) was also developed with public and private partners to provide advice to social workers on how to incorporate an energy poverty into their day-to-day work.

Nonetheless, a national energy poverty strategy is absent. Energy poverty measures have mostly relied on social policies that provide minimum incomes to households. In addition, some Austrian regions offer a *heating allowance* during the winter period. The NGO Caritas also operates a national *electricity help fund*, which provides households with energy audits to improve energy efficiency, as well as support with the replacement of household appliances. The measure also provides energy bill support in dire situations.

There has been numerous local projects aimed at reducing energy poverty, although most of these projects have been completed. Such projects include those providing households with financing for energy-efficient appliances as well as advice on energy use in order to improve energy efficiency. Another project supplied households with wood pellet ovens and pellet supplies. However, most of these pilot projects have not been followed up with large-scale implementation of energy poverty measures.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Prepayment electricity and gas meters for indebted households	Disconnection protection	Regional government	Indebted households
Electricity help fund	Energy audits, Household appliances, Energy bill support	NGO	Low-income households
Heating allowance	Energy bill support	Regional government	Low-income households
Website on energy poverty	Information and awareness	National government, NGO, Business/ Industry	No specific target group

Selected Publications

- Brunner, K.-M., Spitzer, M., and Christanell, A. (2011) [Sustainable energy consumption and lifestyles in poor and vulnerable households \(in German\)](#)
- Brunner, K-M., Spitzer, M. and Christanell, A. (2012) [Experiencing fuel poverty. Coping strategies of low-income households in Vienna/Austria](#)
- Energie-Control Austria (2013) [Energy poverty in Austria. Definitions and indicators \(in German\)](#)
- Berger, T. (2016) [Energy poverty in Austria from a socio-technological perspective \(in German\)](#)

For definitions of the terms used in this report [click here](#). The EPOV website provides an extensive collection of Knowledge & Resources. [Click here](#) for more information and to contribute additional policies, publications and other resources.