



Member State Report Denmark

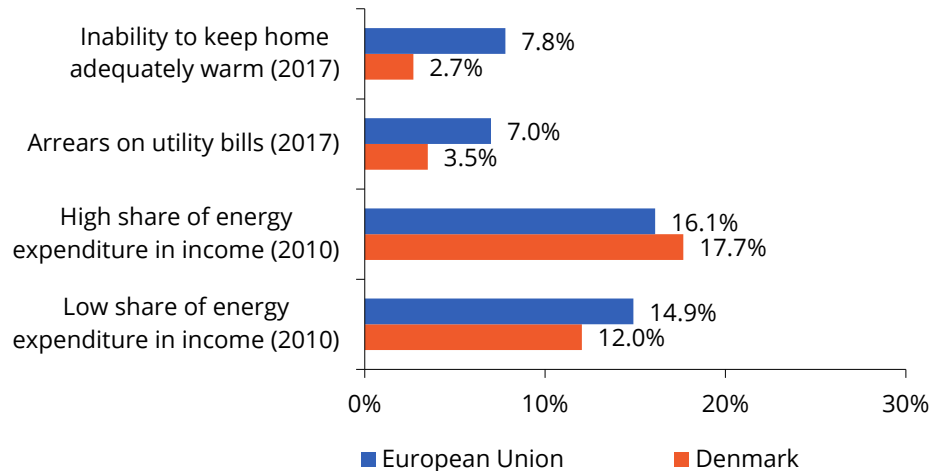
DATA & STATISTICS

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

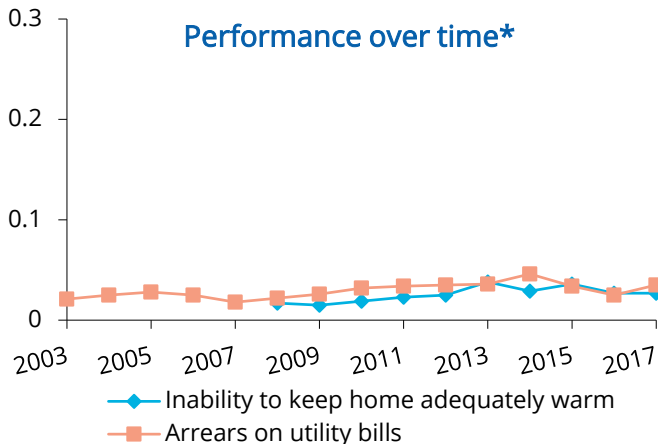
Denmark performs better than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. Only 2.7% of households were unable to keep their home adequately warm in 2017, and 3.5% were in arrears on utility bills.

Denmark is around the EU average for expenditure-based indicators. 17.7% of the households spend more than twice the median on energy, while 12.0% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*



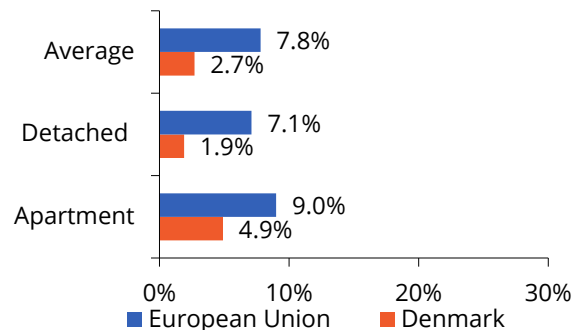
Performance over time*



Energy poverty has been relatively stable in Denmark since 2003. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth has been hovering around 2–4% in the period 2008–2017. These low levels are a result of the income distribution in combination with relatively high level of building standards. The years 2003–2007 have been removed, as this data shows a structural break due to a methodological change in the data collection that took place in 2008. The number of households in arrears has been stable at around 2–5% since 2003.

Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Denmark is mostly a problem for households living in apartments. Moreover, private tenants might be more susceptible to energy poverty.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



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 Denmark, energy poverty is mainly addressed through social policies. Households in a difficult economic situation may apply for financial assistance from municipalities as part of the Danish social security system. In addition, in the case of disconnection it is common practice to inform the municipality, especially if there are children or animals in the house. However, targeted financial support is available for low-income pensioners to receive a reimbursement for heating-related expenses.

General energy policies and measures can also benefit energy poor households. A regulation for *simplified electricity bills* should facilitate transparency and provide consumers with a better understanding of their electricity bill. The Danish regulator also operates an *electricity price comparison website* where household consumers can compare electricity prices on the market.

In addition, multiple programmes exist to improve the energy efficiency of housing. The *Better Housing* scheme supports homeowners in the implementation of energy efficiency measures through a 'one-stop shop' concept, assisting home-owners in the renovation process from start to finish. The *energy subsidy* measure is born from a requirement for grid operators to realise a certain level of energy savings every year, which they implement by providing subsidies to consumers for energy efficiency measures. The *National Building Fund* offers interest-free loans to social housing associations for renovation works.

There have been some studies on energy poverty in Denmark, as well as research on related topics such as distributional effects of taxation and energy consumption patterns for different socio-economic groups. There is little activity from NGO's on the topic.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
National Building Fund loans	Building insulation	National government, Local government	Social housing
Energy subsidy	Building insulation, Heating system	Grid operator	No specific target group
Better Housing	Energy audits	National government, Business/Industry	Landlords, Owner-occupants
Heating allowance for pensioners	Energy bill support	National government	Pensioners
Electricity price comparison website	Information and awareness	Regulator	No specific target group
Simplified electricity bill	Information and awareness	National government, Regulator	No specific target group
Financial help from municipalities	Social support	Local government	Indebted households, Low-income households

Selected Publications

- Klinge Jacobsen, H., Birr-Pedersen, K., and Wier, M. (2003) [Distributional implications of environmental taxation in Denmark](#)
- Petersen, K., and Gram-Hanssen, K. (2005) [Energy and water consumption of households \(in Danish\)](#)
- Wier, M., Birr-Pedersen, K., Klinge Jacobsen, H. and Klok, J. (2005) [Are CO2 taxes regressive? Evidence from the Danish experience](#)
- Snodin, H. M. (2008) [Fuel Poverty in Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and Spain - relation to grid charging and renewable energy](#)
- Gram-Hanssen, K. (2010) [Residential heat comfort practices: understanding users](#)
- Ástmarsson, B., Jensen, P., and Maslesa, E. (2013) [Sustainable renovation of residential buildings and the landlord/tenant dilemma](#)
- Nierop, S.C.A. (2014) [Energy poverty in Denmark?](#)

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.

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