

Member State Report France

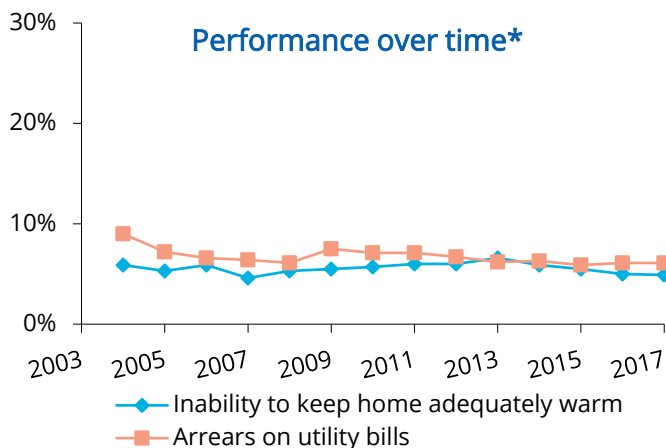
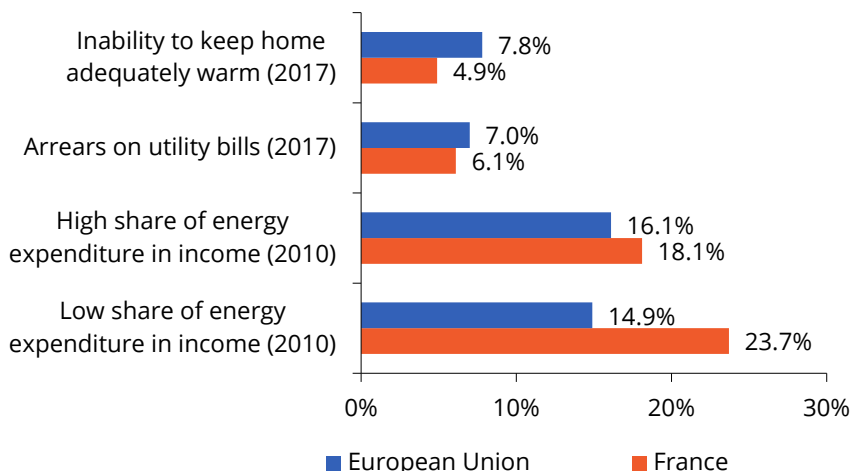
DATA & STATISTICS

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

France performs better than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 4.9% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2016 and 6.1% were in arrears on utility bills.

France is above the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 18.1% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 23.7% less than half the median, but this might be because energy costs are included in rent for collective heating.

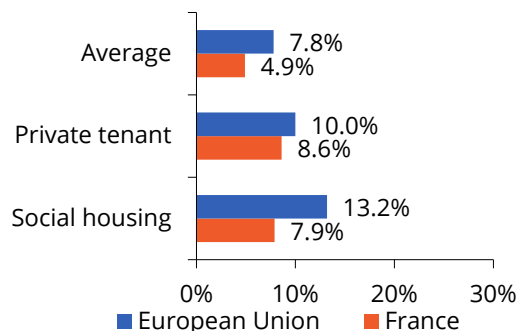
Performance relative to EU average*



Energy poverty in France has been relatively stable. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth has been stable at around 5–7%. The number of households in arrears has decreased from 9% in 2004 to 6% in 2007, and has since been stable at 6–8%.

Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in France is primarily a problem for households that rent their dwelling. In addition, disaggregated data point to households living in apartments and terraced housing as being relatively more susceptible to energy poverty as opposed to those living in detached housing.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*

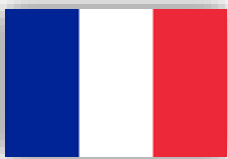


About the EU Energy Poverty Observatory

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. The French Energy Poverty Observatory uses other indicators and sources than those presented in this report (see [ONPE website](#)).

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KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

France is one of the most active countries in terms of research and policies in the field of energy poverty. Studies on energy poverty in France were published as early as 2008, and a French Energy Poverty Observatory facilitates the defining, monitoring and measuring of energy poverty in the country.

A wide range of energy poverty policies have been implemented in France. Multiple programmes involving various stakeholders aim to improve domestic energy efficiency. A significant number of funding programmes targeting energy poor households are implemented through national, regional and local governments, such as the *Social funds for energy renovation* and the *Living Better programme*. However, private funding is also available via the *white certificate scheme* which includes a specific obligation for energy suppliers to promote energy efficiency amongst energy poor households. Moreover, there are also a number of NGOs active in the field of energy poverty; for example, the *Roofs First programme* of the Abbé Pierre Foundation aims to accelerate the availability of social housing with high energy performance.

Energy audit programmes are also implemented by different stakeholders, such as NGOs, private actors and governments, in order to provide vulnerable households with energy saving advice. There are also multiple points where households can obtain more information on energy savings. The *Local Service for Energy Intervention* aims to coordinate actions against energy poverty on a local level.

France employs disconnection protection, which prohibits energy suppliers to disconnect households during the winter period (November–March) from electricity or natural gas provision. Energy bill support is available in the form of *energy vouchers*, which replaced the social tariffs that were previously in force.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
"Living better" programme	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	Low-income households
Roofs first	Building insulation	NGO	Social housing
Social funds for energy management	Building insulation, Heating system, Household appliances	Regional government	Vulnerable households
White certificate scheme - Energy poverty obligation	Building insulation, Household appliances, Heating system, Energy audits, Information and awareness	Energy suppliers, Social housing, National and Local governments	Low-income households
Energy voucher	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households
Winter truce	Disconnection protection	Energy suppliers, National government	No specific target group
Local Service for Energy Intervention	Information and awareness, Energy audits	Local government	Vulnerable households
Energy Transition Tax Credit	Building insulation, heating system	National government	No specific target group
Financial help regarding arrears on energy bills	Energy bill support	Local government	Indebted households

Selected Publications

- Mazet, P. (2008) [Energy poverty, a secondary problem for the poorest consumers \(in French\)](#)
- Plan Bâtiment Grenelle (2009) [Working group - Energy poverty report \(in French\)](#)
- Devalière, I. (2010) [Identification of household energy poverty and analysis of interventions \(in French\)](#)
- Agence Régionale de l'Environnement et des Nouvelles Énergies (2012) [Fighting against energy poverty: Analyses of initiatives and needs in Île-de-France \(in French\)](#)
- Dubois, U. (2012) [From targeting to implementation: The role of identification of fuel poor households](#)
- Dubois, U. (2015) [Energy poverty in urban areas. Towards an analysis in terms of vulnerability \(in French\)](#)
- Fondation Abbé Pierre (2017) [The state of poor housing in France 2017 \(in French\)](#)
- Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (2017) [Thermal renovation works: important changes for households in energy poverty \(in French\)](#)

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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