



Member State Report Germany

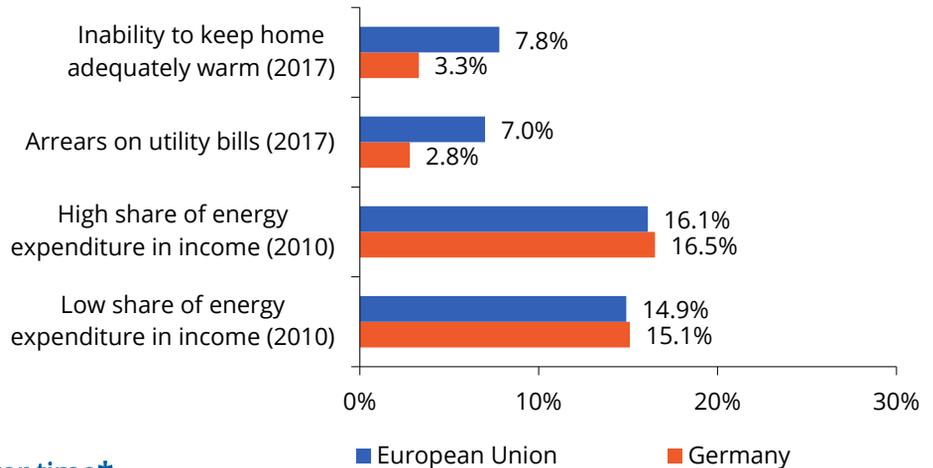
DATA & STATISTICS

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

Germany performs better than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 3.3% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2016, and 2.8% were in arrears on utility bills.

Germany is comparable to the EU average for expenditure-based indicators. 16.5% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 15.1% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*

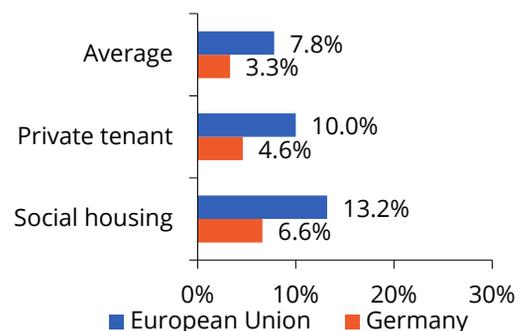


Energy poverty in Germany has been slightly decreasing since 2005. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth decreased from 6% in 2009 to 3% in 2017, while the number of households in arrears decreased from 5% in 2006 to 3% in 2017.

Performance over time*



Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Germany is primarily a problem for households that rent their dwellings. In addition, disaggregated data point to households living in apartments as being relatively more susceptible to energy poverty.

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

Germany has an active research community in the field of energy poverty and related issues. First studies surrounding the topic were already published around the end of the 2000s, and in recent years there have been multiple studies on the impact of the German energy transition on energy poverty.

The national government has several policies in place, some directly targeting energy poverty. *Basic social support* is generally expected to help households to cover their living expenses, including energy costs. In addition, government-backed loans can be provided for outstanding energy payments to avoid disconnection and in some cases, long-standing debt due to energy costs can be taken over by the government. Financial support is also available for energy efficiency improvements, but these are generally not targeted to energy poor households.

On a local level there are multiple initiatives that address energy poverty, for instance by improving the energy efficiency of the dwellings. One common measure is to provide energy audits to households by volunteers and trained professionals. The *Caritas Electricity Savings Check* provides national support to local governments and organisations to set up an energy audit programme. Other examples of local initiatives include the provision of a social tariff by local energy suppliers, which provides a premium for energy efficient social housing or the provision of financial and legal support regarding energy bills.

Social organisations are active on the topic as well; the NGO Caritas runs the *Electricity Savings Check programme* and consumer associations provide advice on energy savings free of charge to low-income households.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Climate premium Bielefeld	Building insulation, Heating system	Local government	Households on social benefits,
Loan for outstanding energy payments	Disconnection protection	National government, Regional government	Households on social benefits, Unemployed
Caritas Electricity saving check	Energy audits, Household appliances	National government, NGO	Households on social benefits
Social funding for energy bills Hannover	Energy bill support	Local government	Households on social benefits, Low-income households
NRW combats energy poverty	Information and awareness, Disconnection protection	Regional government, NGO, Energy suppliers	No specific target group
Basic social support	Social support	National government, Regional government	Low-income households, Unemployed
Care-Energy social tariff Hamburg	Social tariff	Energy suppliers	Low-income households

Selected Publications

- Deutsche Caritasverband (2013) [Energy poverty - enabling participation: cornerstones and position of the DCV to fight energy poverty \(in German\)](#)
- Heindl, P. (2013) [Measuring fuel poverty: General Considerations and Application to German Household Data](#)
- Kopatz, M. (2013) [Energy transition. But fair! How the energy future can be made socially sustainable \(in German\)](#)
- Tews, K. (2014) [Fuel Poverty in Germany: From a Buzzword to a Definition \(in German\)](#)
- Verbraucherzentrale Nordrhein-Westfalen (2015) [Common ways out of energy poverty: experiences and successes from North Rhine-Westphalia \(in German\)](#)
- Luschei, F., Bleckmann, L., and Schreiner, N. (2016) [Is energy poverty a new social risk? An empirical analysis as a basis for social policy \(in German\)](#)
- Großmann, K.; Schaffrin, A.; Smigiel, C. (eds.) (2017) [Energy and social inequality. The social dimension of the energy transition in Germany and Europe \(in German\)](#)

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.

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