



Member State Report Ireland

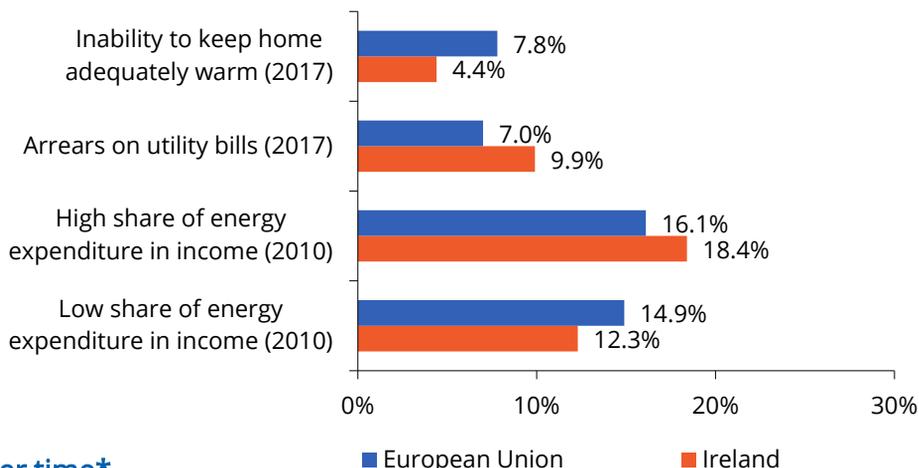
DATA & STATISTICS

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

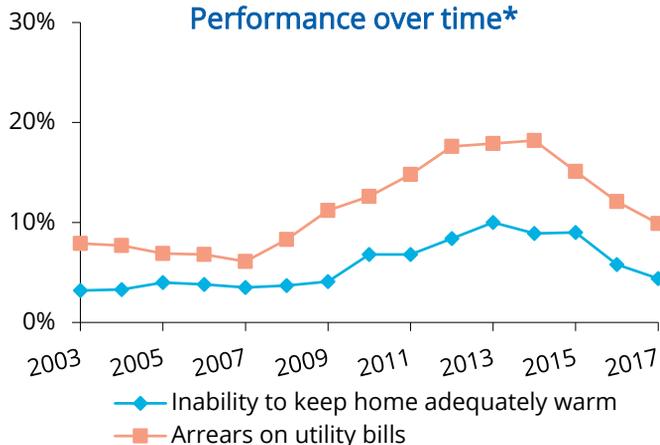
Ireland performs around the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 4.4% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2016, and 9.9% were in arrears on utility bills.

Ireland also performs around the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 18.4% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 12.3% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*



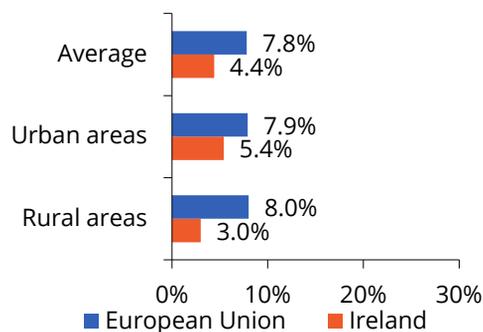
Performance over time*



Energy poverty in Ireland worsened from 2007 to 2013, which may be due to the financial crisis. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth increased from 4% in 2007 to 10% in 2013 but decreased to 4% in 2017. The number of households in arrears has followed a similar pattern.

Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Ireland is particularly a problem for urban households. Data also points to households living in rented apartments as being particularly susceptible.

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 Irish Ministry had research carried out that illustrate objective measures of energy poverty in Ireland, to be found [here](#).

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KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

Research on energy poverty has a long tradition in Ireland and is connected to the research in the United Kingdom. Analyses of energy poverty in Ireland were conducted as early as 2003 (Healy 2003, Healy and Clinch 2004) and has continued to the present.

The Irish national government has set up a strategy to combat energy poverty. After the first strategy in 2012, the updated Energy Poverty Strategy in 2016 expanded the reach of existing energy efficiency schemes and committed the government to developing and piloting new measures (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources 2016). As a result, some energy efficiency schemes in Ireland are particularly targeted at energy poor households. The *Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme* focuses on low-income homeowners. Since 2001 over 130,000 homeowners have had energy efficiency measures carried out to their homes under this scheme. The *Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme* targets people living with chronic respiratory conditions. The *Housing Aid for Older People Scheme* aims to improve the condition of older person's homes.

The national government also provides multiple forms of energy bill support, including for fuel, electricity and natural gas costs. A special *heating supplement* is available for people who have extra heating needs because of their age, medical condition or disability.

There are multiple stakeholders active in the energy poverty field in Ireland. NGOs such as Energy Action and Society of Saint Vincent de Paul are working to alleviate energy poverty. In addition, energy suppliers have committed voluntarily in the *EAI Energy Engage Code* to never disconnect an engaging customer.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Better Energy Warmer Homes	Building insulation, Energy audits, Household appliances	National government	Low-income households
Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	Pensioners, Chronically/severely diseased, Households on social benefits
Housing Aid for Older People	Building insulation, Heating system	Local government	Pensioners, Low-income households
The EAI Energy Engage Code	Disconnection protection	Energy suppliers	Indebted households
Fuel Allowance	Energy bill support	National government	Vulnerable households
Heating Supplement under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme	Energy bill support	National government	Pensioners, Disabled, Chronically/severely diseased, Low-income households
Keep Well and Warm	Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group

Selected Publications

- Brophy, V., et al. (1999). [Homes for the 21st Century](#)
- Healy, J.D. (2003) [Fuel Poverty and Policy in Ireland and the European Union](#)
- Scott, S. et al. (2008) [Fuel Poverty in Ireland: Extent, Affected Groups and Policy Issues](#)
- McAvoy, H., and Liddell, C. (2009) [Annual Update on Fuel Poverty and Health](#)
- O'Meara, G. (2015) [A Review of the Literature on Fuel Poverty with a Focus on Ireland](#)
- Watson, D., and Maître, B. (2015) [Is Fuel Poverty in Ireland a Distinct Type of Deprivation](#)
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (2016) [A Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty 2016-2019](#)
- DCENR (2015) [Bottom-up analysis of fuel poverty in Ireland](#)

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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