



Member State Report Latvia

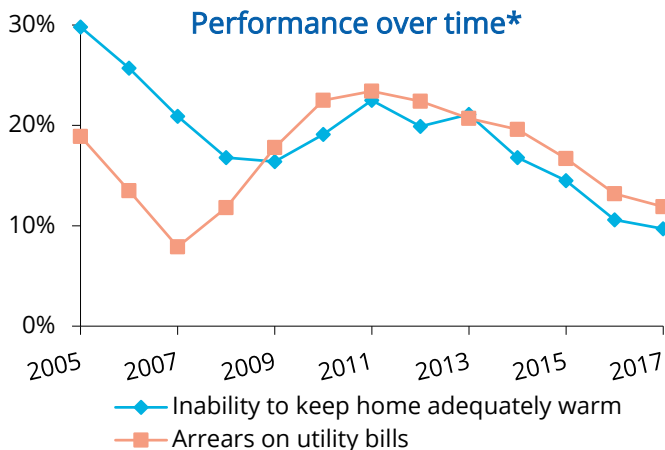
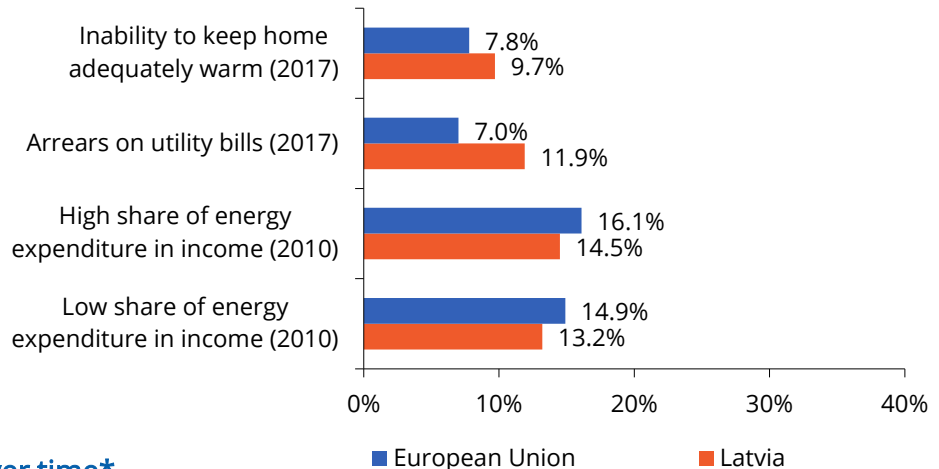
DATA & STATISTICS

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

Latvia performs worse than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 9.7% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 11.9% were in arrears on utility bills.

Latvia is slightly better than the EU average for expenditure-based indicators. 14.5% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 13.2% spend less than half the median.

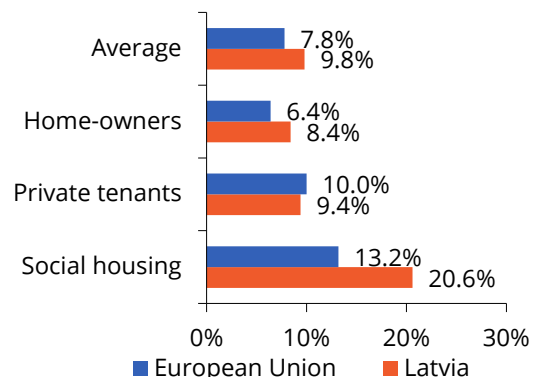
Performance relative to EU average*



Energy poverty in Latvia has improved overall since 2005, but worsened in the years 2009-2011, which may be due to the financial crisis. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth increased from 18% in 2009 to 21% in 2013, but then decreased to 10% in 2017. The number of households in arrears followed a similar pattern.

Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Latvia is particularly a problem for households that live in social housing. In addition, data points to households living in terraced housing and apartments as 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 Latvia, specific research and policies on energy poverty have yet to be developed. Until summer 2018, energy poverty in Latvia had only been analysed in the context of regional studies of Eastern Europe.

The approach to address energy poverty in Latvia is mainly through social policies. Municipalities are required to provide a *minimum income* level to all households if necessary, and they can also provide a *housing allowance* to households, which includes the costs for electricity and heating. In addition, the national government provides financial support for certain vulnerable groups to pay for their electricity bills.

Some general energy policies could be potentially beneficial for energy poor households. The *Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme* requires electricity suppliers to achieve a certain amount of energy savings by informing consumers of energy efficiency and promoting energy efficiency improvements. The *Live Warmer* measure is an agreement signed between different stakeholders in the public and private sectors to promote energy renovations by cooperating and providing information to households. In the *Energy efficiency program*, around 20,000 apartments are expected to benefit from improvements in energy efficiency by 2020.

The EU-funded project related to energy poverty, SUNShiNE, is active in Latvia. SUNShiNE supports public and private ESCOs and contributes to an innovative investment scheme based on the long-term guaranteed safety, health, comfort, and affordability of deeply renovated buildings in Latvia.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Energy efficiency program	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	Apartment buildings
Support for electricity costs	Energy bill support	National government, Energy supplier	Households with children, Disabled, Low-income households
Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme	Information and awareness	Energy suppliers	No specific target group
Live warmer	Information and awareness	Business/Industry, National government	No specific target group
Guaranteed minimum income level	Social support	Local government	Low-income households
Housing allowance	Social support	Local government	Low-income households, Disabled, Pensioners, Households with children, children left without parental care

Selected Publications

- World Bank (2000) [Maintaining Utility Services for the Poor: Policies and Practices in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union](#)
- Lampietti, J., and Meyer, A. (2002) [Coping with the Cold: Heating Strategies for Eastern Europe and Central Asia's Urban Poor](#)
- Fankhauser, S. and Tepic, S. (2007) [Can poor consumers pay for energy and water? An affordability analysis for transition countries](#)
- Ruggeri Laderchi, C., Olivier, A., and Trimble, C. (2013) [Balancing Act: Cutting Energy Subsidies While Protecting Affordability](#)

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.