



Member State Report Netherlands

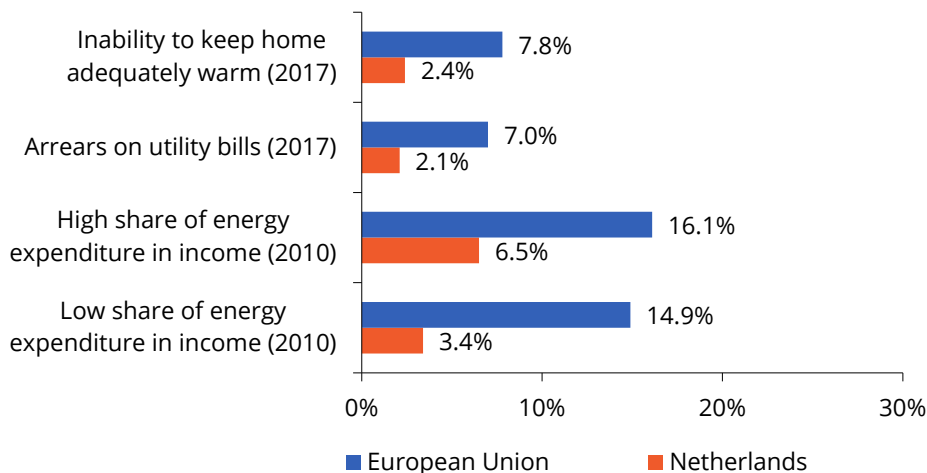
DATA & STATISTICS

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

The Netherlands performs considerably better than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 2.4% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 2.1% were in arrears on utility bills.

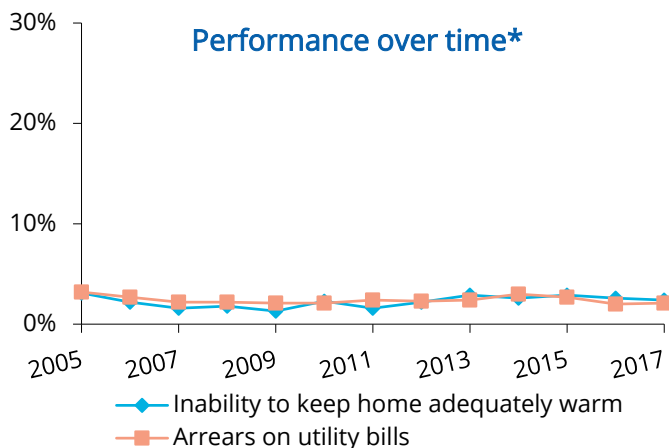
The Netherlands is better than the EU average for expenditure-based indicators. 6.5% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 3.4% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*

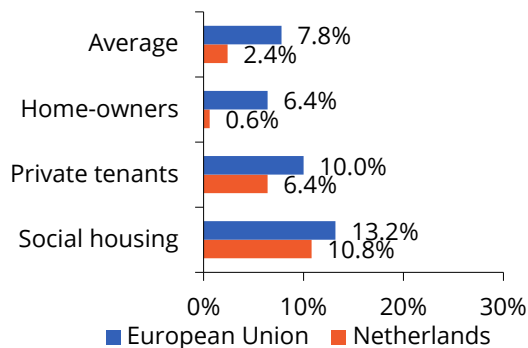


From 2005 to 2016, the percentage of households in the Netherlands unable to keep the home adequately warm was around 1–3%. The number of households in arrears on utility bills has also remained low.

Performance over time*



Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in the Netherlands is a larger problem for households that rent their housing, especially social housing. In addition, data points to households living in apartments as the most susceptible to energy poverty among different dwelling types.

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 the Netherlands, research and activities on energy poverty have become more prevalent in recent years. The research focusses in particular on the distributional effects and affordability of the energy transition in the context of political discussions. Recently the first NGO to address energy poverty on a national scale, *Energy bank*, was established.

Energy poverty is addressed mainly through social policy in the Netherlands, including strong social housing and social support systems. Multiple policies exist to improve energy efficiency in social housing. The *Energy savings convent rental sector* is an agreement between the national government and stakeholders in the social housing sector stipulating that all social housing achieve a minimum energy performance. There is also an incentive scheme that provides financial assistance for improvements in the energy performance of social housing. In order to avoid the landlord-tenant dilemma, the total housing costs (rent, service costs and energy costs) cannot be increased due to the renovation.

There is also a *disconnection protection* measure for vulnerable households in the winter (1 October–1 April). Households can also benefit from a tax reduction of a fixed amount (around €300) to cover basic electricity needs. Another interesting measure is the *Guide on energy subsidies*, which allows households to easily check what subsidies they can receive for energy savings.

Finally, there have been multiple initiatives that address energy poverty through energy advisors that visit households to provide energy advice, such as the abovementioned *Energy bank* and the *Energy box*. It has been estimated that these projects lead to savings per household from €56–113 per year.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Energy savings convent rental sector	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	Social housing
Incentive scheme to improve energy performance of social housing	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	Social housing
Disconnection protection households	Disconnection protection	National government	Vulnerable households
Energy bank	Energy audits, Energy bill support, Household appliances	NGO, Grid operator	Low-income households, Households on social benefits
Energy box	Energy audits, Household appliances	Business/Industry, Local government, Grid operator	Private tenants, Social housing
Electricity tax reduction for basic needs	Energy bill support	National government	No specific target group,
Guide on energy subsidies	Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group

Selected Publications

- Ekamper, P., van Poppel, F., van Duin, C. and Garssen, J. (2009) [150 Years of temperature-related excess mortality in the Netherlands](#)
- Scott-Smith, L. (2011) [Going Dutch: Local Government and Fuel Poverty](#)
- Tigchelaar, C., et al (2011) [Obligations in the existing housing stock: Who pays the bill?](#)
- Murphy, L. (2014) [The influence of energy audits on the energy efficiency investments of private owner-occupied households in the Netherlands](#)
- Clancy, J.S., Daskalova, V., Feenstra, M.H. (2017) [Gender perspective on access to energy in the EU](#)
- Straver, K, et al. (2017) [Report on energy poverty. Effective policies to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy poverty](#)
- Vergeer, R., Rooijers, F., and Davidson, M. (2017) [Justice and income effects of climate policy](#)
- Oei, A., et al. (2018) [From gas-fired boilers to sustainable heating](#)

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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