



Member State Report Portugal

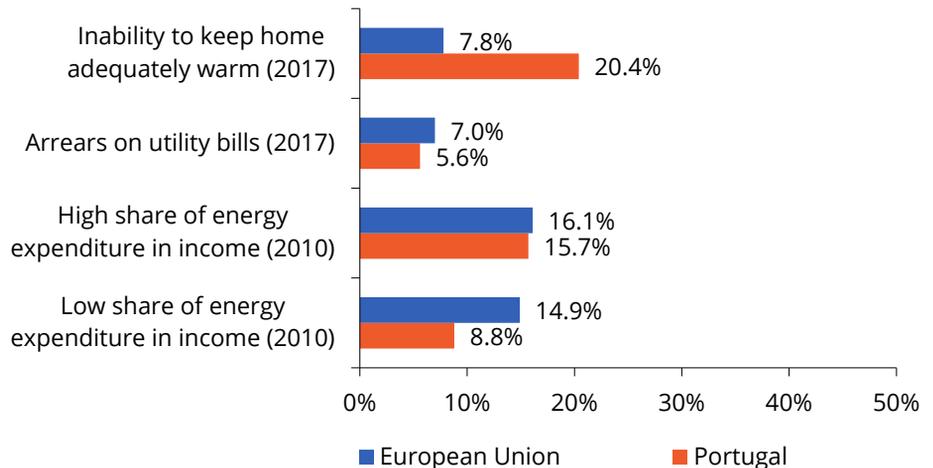
DATA & STATISTICS

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

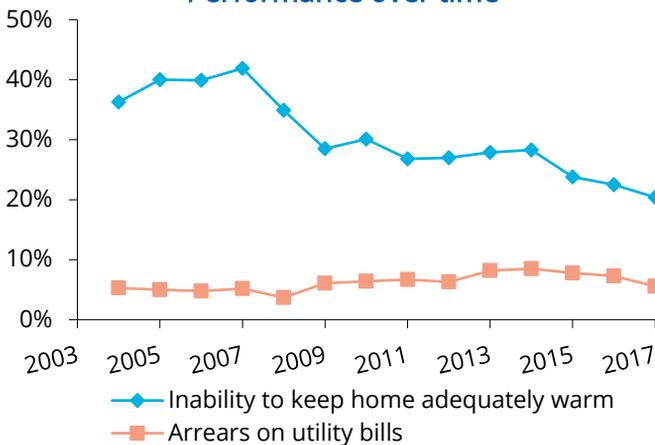
Portugal has mixed results compared to the EU average for the household-reported indicators. 20.4% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 5.6% were in arrears on utility bills.

Portugal scores better than the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 15.7% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 8.8% spend less than half the median.

Performance relative to EU average*

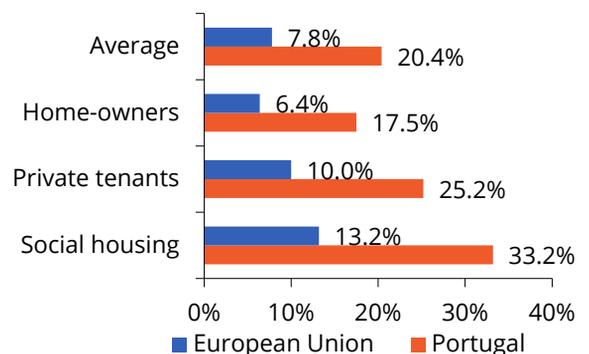


Performance over time*



In Portugal, the percentage of households unable to keep the home adequately warm has decreased in recent years, from 42% in 2007 to 20% in 2017. The number of households in arrears on utility bills has been relatively stable between 4% and 9%. This difference between the inability to keep warm and the arrears on utility bills might be due to the important share of wood fuel used for heating purposes that are not included in utility bills.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Portugal is a larger problem for households that rent their housing. This is particularly true for social housing. In addition, disaggregated data points to households living in urban areas as most 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

In Portugal, research on energy poverty has increased in recent years. This research has focussed on different topics, such as the geographical distribution of energy poverty, thermal comfort and energy consumption. Important to mention also is the increasing research interest in the inability to keep dwellings comfortably cool in summer time, which can also be included as part of energy poverty.

Energy poverty is addressed mainly on the national level through financial assistance via the *social tariff*. Since 2016, the tariff is automatically awarded to vulnerable consumers receiving certain social benefits and to low-income households. To benefit from the electricity social tariff, consumers must have a power supply contract for domestic use and contracted power in low-voltage $\leq 6,9$ kVA. To benefit from the natural gas social tariff, the consumer must have a supply contract for domestic use in low pressure and an annual consumption ≤ 500 m³. Previous versions of the social tariff that began around 2008 were different in scope (only electricity) and target groups. In previous years, around 14% of all Portuguese households benefit from this measure: 786,000 households receive the social tariff for electricity and 34,000 for natural gas.

The national energy agency ADENE runs a project on Energy Poverty and Energy Efficiency. The national government also operates general programs and policies to improve energy efficiency and cooling/heating systems in households, but these are not specifically targeted to energy poor.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Energy Efficiency Fund	Building insulation, Heating system, Household appliances, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group
Promotion of Efficiency in Electric Energy Consumption	Cooling system, Heating system, Household appliances, Information and awareness	Regulator	No specific target group
Social tariff	Social tariff	National government	Disabled, Low-income households, Households on social benefits, Pensioners, Unemployed

Selected Publications

- Vasconcelos, J., Freire, E., Morais, J., Machado, J.R., and Santana, P. (2010) [The health impacts of poor housing conditions and thermal discomfort](#)
- Gouveia, J.P., Palma, P., Seixas, J., and Simoes, S (2017) [Mapping Residential Thermal Comfort Gap at Very High Resolution Spatial Scale: Implications for Energy Policy Design](#)
- Palma, P. (2017) [Mapping heating and cooling energy needs in Portugal at civil parish level: Implications for thermal comfort in households](#)
- Simoes, S., Gregório, V. and Seixas J. (2017) [Mapping Fuel Poverty in Portugal](#)
- Gouveia, J.P., Seixas, J., Long, G. (2018) [Mining Households' energy data to disclose fuel poverty: lessons for Southern Europe](#)

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.