



# Member State Report Spain

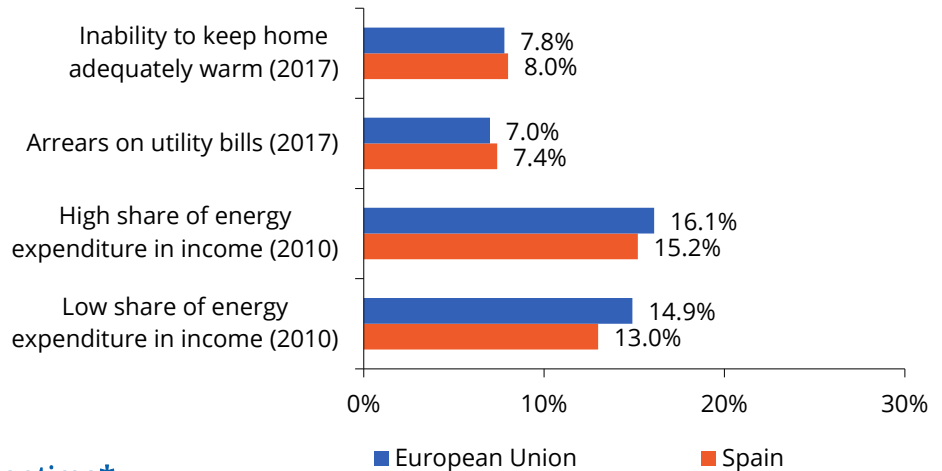
## DATA & STATISTICS

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

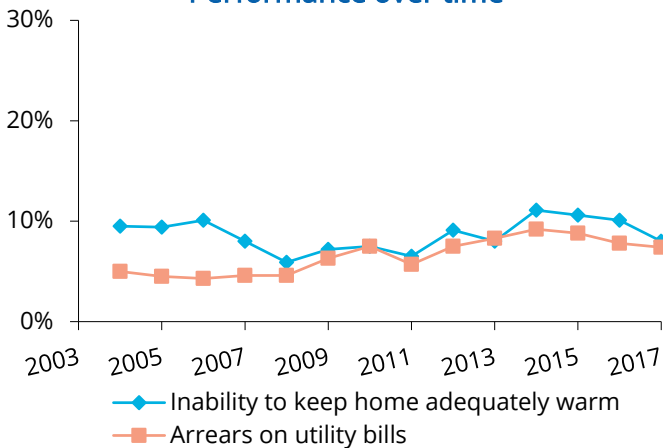
Spain performs slightly worse than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 8.0% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 7.4% were in arrears on utility bills.

Spain is below the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 15.2% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 13.0% spend less than half the median.

### Performance relative to EU average\*

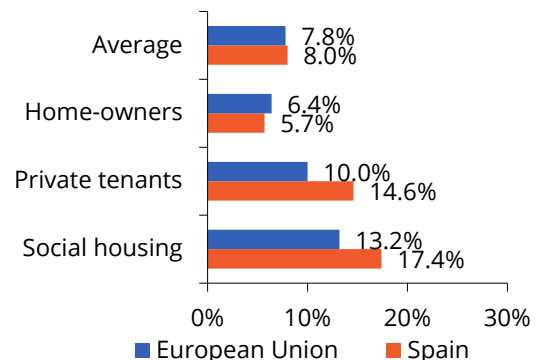


### Performance over time\*



In Spain, the percentage of households unable to keep the home adequately warm decreased until 2008, but has been increasing since as a result of the financial crisis. Similarly, the number of households with arrears on utility bills increased in recent years, from 4% in 2006 to 9% in 2015.

### Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)\*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Spain is a larger problem for households that rent as opposed to own their housing. This is true both on the private market and in social housing. In addition, data seems points to households living in apartments as being more vulnerable 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 Spain, there substantial activity on the topic of energy poverty. In the last ten years there have been multiple studies on energy poverty in Spain, most recently in April of 2018 (Asociación de Ciencias Ambientales 2018). Also on the regional and local levels, there is active interest from researchers, showcased by studies in Catalonia, Aragon, Gipuzkoa, Madrid and Barcelona. In Gipuzkoa there is a dedicated Energy Poverty Observatory containing indicators and resources.

On a national level, one major measure to address energy poverty is the *social tariff for electricity*, which implements a discount on the electricity bill for vulnerable households and protects severely vulnerable households from disconnection. The recently approved Royal Decree 897/2017 substitutes the previous social tariff started in 2009 and sets new eligibility criteria. In addition, the *Law 8/2013 on building renovation* includes the fight against energy poverty as an objective and prioritises energy efficiency measures in serious situations of energy poverty. Finally, the Spanish government published a national strategy against energy poverty for the next five years.

On a regional and local level, energy poverty policies are being implemented. In Barcelona, the *Energy Advice Points* prevented households from being cut off in 5,000 cases during the first year, and a *housing renovation programme* exists for vulnerable households.

Many organisations are active on the topic of energy poverty in Spain; more than 20 organisations are listed in the [Relevant Organisations](#) section of the EPOV website. These include governmental organisations, NGOs and advocacy groups on national, regional and local levels.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
<a href="#">Law 8/2013 on building renovation</a>	Building insulation	National government	No specific target group
<a href="#">Housing renovation programme for vulnerable households</a>	Building insulation, Heating system	Local government	Low-income households, Vulnerable households
<a href="#">Program for the promotion of building renovations</a>	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	Apartment buildings
<a href="#">Regional energy efficiency programmes</a>	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	Regional government	No specific target group
<a href="#">Disconnection protection Catalonia (Law 24/2015)</a>	Disconnection protection	Regional government	Low-income households, Vulnerable households
<a href="#">Energy Advice Points</a>	Disconnection protection, Information and awareness	Local government	No specific target group
<a href="#">Social tariff for electricity</a>	Social tariff	National government	Vulnerable households

### Selected Publications

- Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya (2013) [Energy poverty in Catalonia \(in Spanish\)](#)
- Romero, J.C. et al. (2014) [Energy Poverty in Spain. Economic analysis and proposals \(in Spanish\)](#)
- Scarpellini, S., Suárez, I., and Allué, A. (2014) [Energy poverty in Aragon, Spain \(in Spanish\)](#)
- Energy Poverty Observatory in Gipuzkoa (2015) [Quantitative analysis on the incidence of energy poverty in Gipuzkoa 2014 \(in Spanish\)](#)
- Ecoserveis (2016) [Energy poverty in the Barcelona region \(in Catalan\)](#)
- Fernández, A., et al. (2016) [Technical study on energy poverty in the city of Madrid \(in Spanish\)](#)
- Tirado Herrero, S. and Jiménez Meneses, L. (2016) [Energy poverty, crisis and austerity in Spain](#)
- Ajuntament de Sabadell, et al. (eds) (2017) [Energy poverty in Catalonia: challenges \(in Catalan\)](#)
- Asociación de Ciencias Ambientales (ACA) (2018) [Energy poverty in Spain. Towards a system of indicators and a national implementation strategy \(in Spanish\)](#)
- Spanish government (2019) [National strategy against energy poverty 2019-2024 \(in Spanish\)](#)

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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