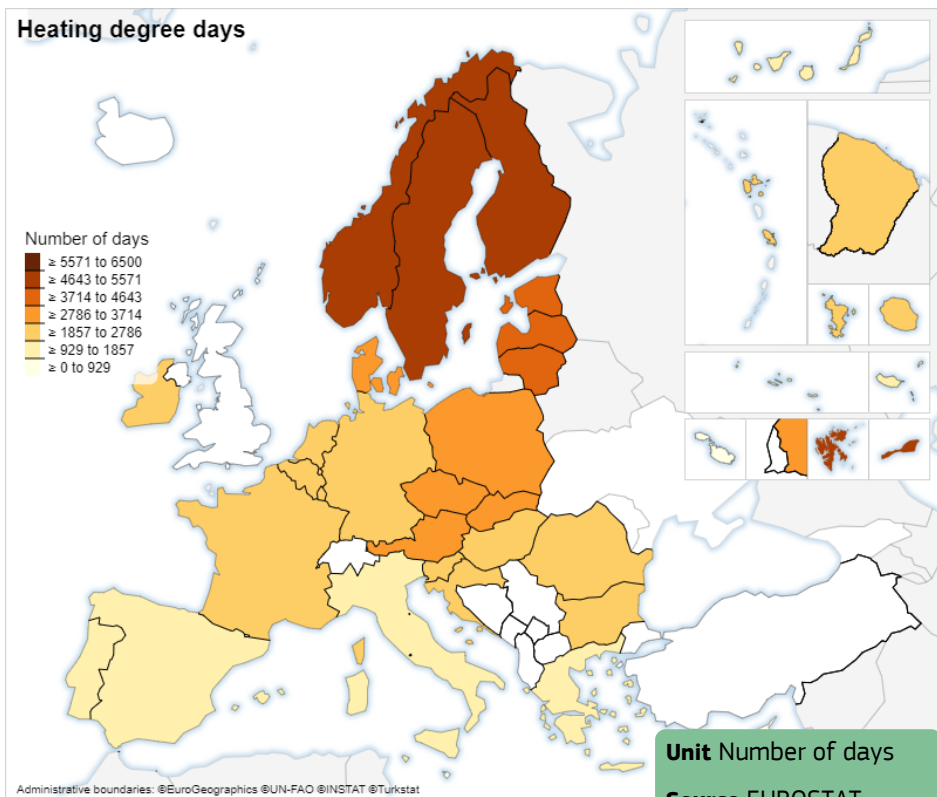
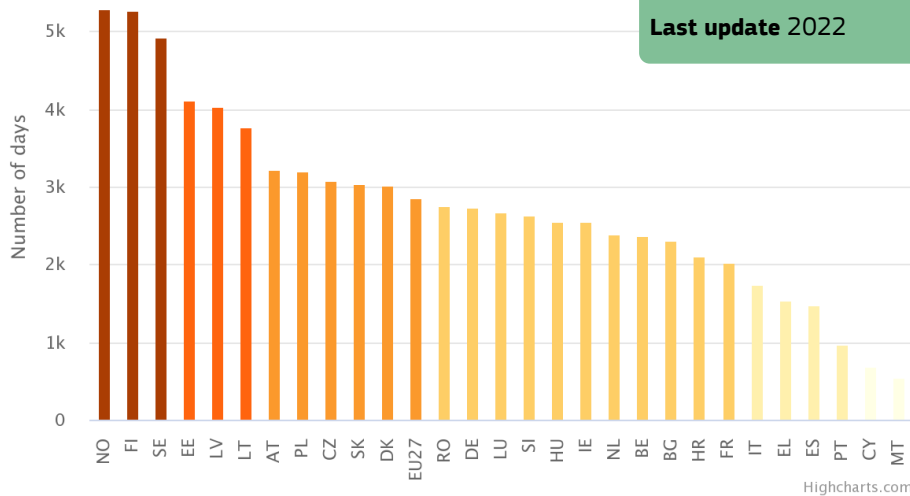


National indicator - Heating degree days



Unit Number of days
Source EUROSTAT
Last update 2022



DEFINITION

The indicator refers to how much (in degrees) and for how long (in days) outside air temperature was, respectively, higher/lower than a specific "base temperature" (or "balance point"). They are used for calculating the energy consumption requirements to heat and cool buildings to thermal comfort standards.

LIMITS

- It is used to estimate the heating and cooling energy demand of buildings.
- It is valuable to compare energy needs that only depend on climate conditions.
- It does not consider the specific characteristics of the building stock across countries and regions.
- It can be used to calculate energy needs, consumption and expenditure necessary for thermal comfort.
- It does not capture in detail changes at the hour scale.
- It should be cross-compared with other building energy efficiency indicators and as energy affordability and inability to maintain thermal comfort



NUMBERS

- In 2022, the need for heating a given building was approximately two-tenths lower and almost four times higher to cool than in 1979.
- Finland had the highest average annual HDD value (5 656), while for Malta, the value of this index was 534.
- Malta had the highest average CDD (580.4), and the lowest values for this index were calculated for Ireland (0.03)



EXAMPLE

If two households live in similar well-insulated homes in regions with different heating degree day values, the one living in the milder winter climate region will likely be less vulnerable to EP.



More details and additional insights on the indicator are available in the EPAH report [“Energy Poverty National Indicators: Uncovering New Possibilities for Expanded Knowledge”](#).

