



Member State Report Greece

DATA & STATISTICS

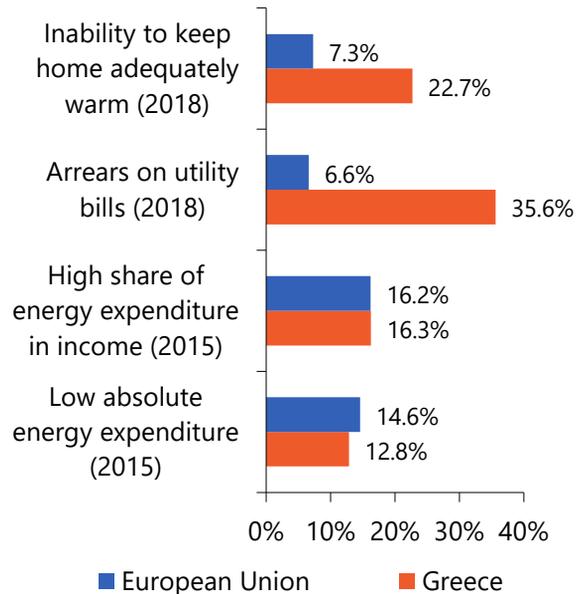
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Greece at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Greece.

Greece has a significantly lower performance than the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 22.7% of the population reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.3%. Similarly for 2018, 35.6% were unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

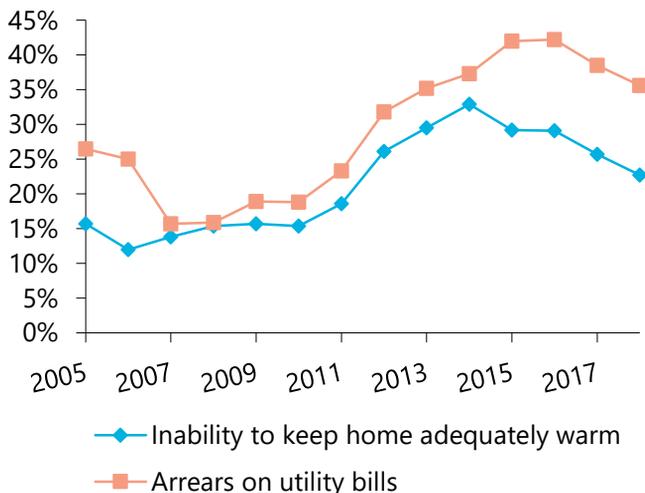
Greece's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is similar to the EU average. The share of households that spend an unusually high share of their income on energy expenditure is 16.3% which is about the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

At 12.8% Greece has a lower number of households that spend an unusually low share of their income on energy expenditure. These households might restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

Performance relative to EU average*



Performance over time*



In Greece, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately warm gradually increased significantly from 15% in 2010 to 32.9% in 2014. The notable increase between 2010 and 2014 may be attributed to the financial crisis that Greece has undergone and is still currently struggling with. The indicator has decreased in the past couple of years to 22.7% in 2018.

Meanwhile the percentage of the population that is on arrears on utility bill follows a similar trajectory and increased notably between 2010 and 2016 from 18.8% to 42.2%. By the year 2018, the share of population that is on arrears on utility bills decreased to 35.6%. This is still notably higher than the corresponding EU average.

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.

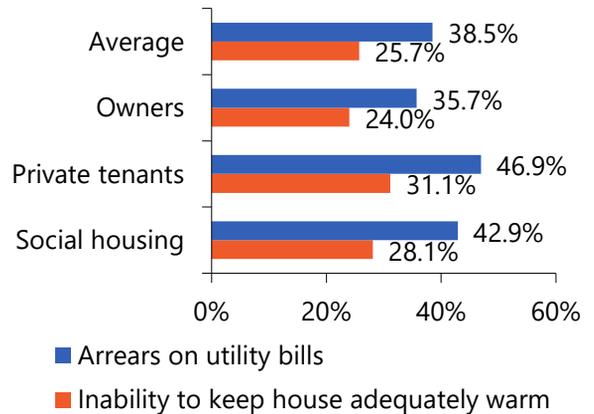
*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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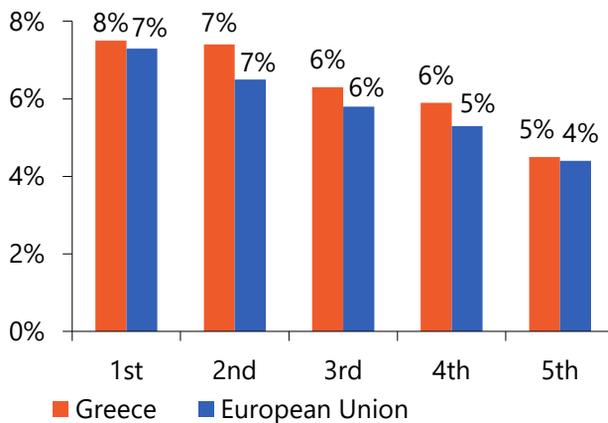
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2017)*



The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Greece is highest for the private tenant sector in 2017, at 31.1% for inability to keep the house warm and 46.9% for arrears on utility bills. The private tenant sector which is the most vulnerable to energy poverty, accounts for 21% of the population in Greece. The social housing sectors is the next most vulnerable sector and accounts for 6% of the population.

The data also indicates that detached and semi-detached type dwellings are the most vulnerable to these indicators, noting that 40% of the population live in this dwelling type.

Share of energy expenditure of income by quintile (2015)*



Greece has a percentage of energy expenditure by income that compares well with the corresponding EU values.

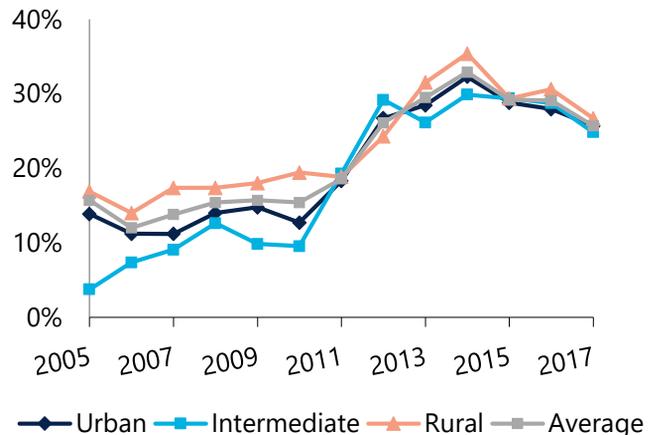
In 2015, the poorest quintile spent 7.5% of their income on energy expenditure, compared to 7.3% in the European Union as a whole. Meanwhile, the richest quintile spent 4.5% of their income on energy expenditure while the European Union value is 4.4%.

This suggests that despite having population based indicators showing high level of energy poverty in Greece, this is not strictly sensitive to income.

Greece has a sharp increase in the inability to keep house adequately warm between 2010 and 2012, most probably due to the financial crisis. It can be observed that the intermediately populated areas have had the sharpest increase in this indicator, although all urban densities exhibit similar behaviour. All urban densities have the highest levels of energy poverty in 2014.

All urban densities exhibit a slow decrease of this indicator from 2014 onward, although 2017 values have not yet reached the lowest values exhibited in 2005 and 2006.

Inability to keep house adequately warm by population density *



*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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POLICIES & MEASURES

Greece has an active research community in the field of energy poverty and related issues. Initial studies on the topic were published around 2008, and in recent years there have been multiple studies on the impact of the financial crisis on energy poverty in Greece. A Greek Energy Poverty Observatory was also set up that aims to inform the public and policymakers about the level of energy poverty in Greece.

The national government facilitates financial support to households to pay their energy bills. A social tariff has been instated, which is provided by all power suppliers. The social tariff targets low-income households and vulnerable households, such as the disabled and chronically diseased. Furthermore, the *heating oil allowance* covers the heating oil costs of low-income households during in the winter months (October–April). The heating oil allowance was disbursed to 380,000 beneficiaries between mid-October 2016 and mid-January 2017. A set amount of electricity was provided to indebted households after the financial crisis for free as a temporary measure.

In addition, national and regional programmes have been developed to improve the energy efficiency of housing in low-income households, such as the *replacement of existing heating oil boilers* with natural gas boilers. The *Building the Future* program aims to facilitate the improvement of energy efficiency of housing by ensuring more affordable prices for energy efficiency interventions. Meanwhile the *Energy Efficiency at Household Buildings Programme*, started in 2011, provides financial assistance to improve the energy efficiency of housing. In June 2016, the State renewed and modified the programme in order to increase the number of beneficiaries.

Finally, a recently implemented *Law on energy communities* facilitates the set up of energy communities, which are organisations that aim to promote solidarity and innovation in the energy sector, including for energy poverty measures.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Energy Efficiency at Household Buildings Programme	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	Low-income households,	2011	In the period 2014-2016, EUR 548 million were secured for the implementation of energy efficiency upgrading interventions in residential buildings. By October 2013, EUR 406 million had been provided to approximately 40,000 beneficiaries.
Law on Energy communities	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy, Transport	National government, NGO	Vulnerable households	2018	
Heating oil allowance	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households	2013	Around 106 million EUR of heating oil allowance was distributed to 380,000 beneficiaries between October 2016 and January 2017.
Replacement of heating oil boilers with natural gas boilers in buildings	Heating system	National government	Low-income households	2015	
Building the Future	Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group		
Social Residential Tariff	Social Tariff	National government, Energy suppliers, Regulator	Vulnerable households, Low-income households		

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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

This page gives an overview of the most relevant organisations working on energy poverty in Greece and presents publications and training resource on energy poverty in Greece.

Organisation

Name: Greek Energy Poverty Observatory (Παρατηρητήριο ενεργειακής φτώχειας)
Organisation type: Research & Consultancy
Description: It was developed by the Center for Renewable Sources and Energy Saving and informs policymakers and the public on the level of energy poverty in Greece. In the economic downturn, energy poverty is becoming increasingly prevalent, especially in low- and middle-income households.

Organisation

Name: Social innovation to tackle fuel poverty (Ashoka/Schneider Electric Foundation)
Organisation type: Social support
Description: It offers financial support to the most innovative social entrepreneurs in to help entire communities tackle fuel poverty and move towards sustainable energy. It aims to identify, engage and support to scale-up 15-20 innovative organisations.

Publication

Title: [Energy Poverty in Greece: Social Innovation Recommendations to tackle the phenomenon](#)
Authors: Corovessi, A., Touloupaki, E., Chrysogelos, N., and Metaxa, K.
Year: 2017
Description: The study presents the factors that drive energy poverty as well as its social, economic and environmental impacts. It provides a series of recommendations about tackling energy poverty in Greece indicating the way towards which energy poverty policies should shift.

Training Resource

Title: [Energy saving advice for students](#)
Authors: SAVES2
Year: 2018
Description: It provides energy saving guidance for university students living in rented accommodation including: switching energy supplier, smart meters, and the energy efficiency of the property. The resource can be accessed by students from across Europe and includes blogs and an international energy saving competition. Specific energy savings resources have also been adapted by universities from Greece.

Other selected publications

- Panas E. (2012) [Research on energy poverty in Greece \(in Greek\)](#)
- Santamouris, M. et al (2013) [Financial crisis and energy consumption: A household survey in Greece](#)
- Dagoumas, K., and Kitsios, F. (2014) [Assessing the impact of the economic crisis on energy poverty in Greece](#)
- Atsalis, A. et al. (2016) [Fuel poverty in Greece: Quantitative analysis and implications for policy](#)
- Papada, L., Kaliampakos, D. (2016) [Measuring energy poverty in Greece](#)
- Boemi, S., Avdimiotis, S., Papadopoulos, A. (2017) [Domestic energy deprivation in Greece: A field study](#)
- Boemi, S., Panaras, G., Papadopoulos, A. (2017) [Residential Heating under Energy Poverty Conditions: A Field Study A.](#)
- Papada, L., Kaliampakos, D. (2017) [Energy poverty in Greek mountainous areas: a comparative study](#)

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.

This report was completed in February 2020.

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