



Member State Report Italy

DATA & STATISTICS

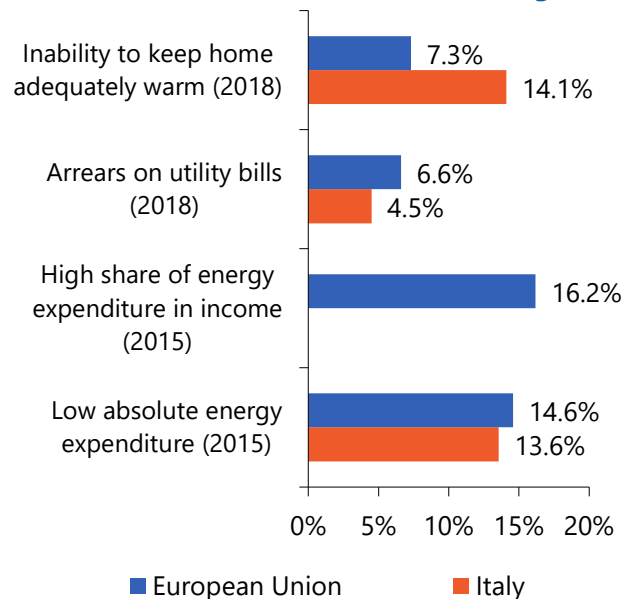
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Italy at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Italy.

Italy has a mixed performance in comparison to the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 14.1% of households reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm which is significantly higher than the corresponding EU average at 7.3%. Conversely, for 2018, 4.5% were unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

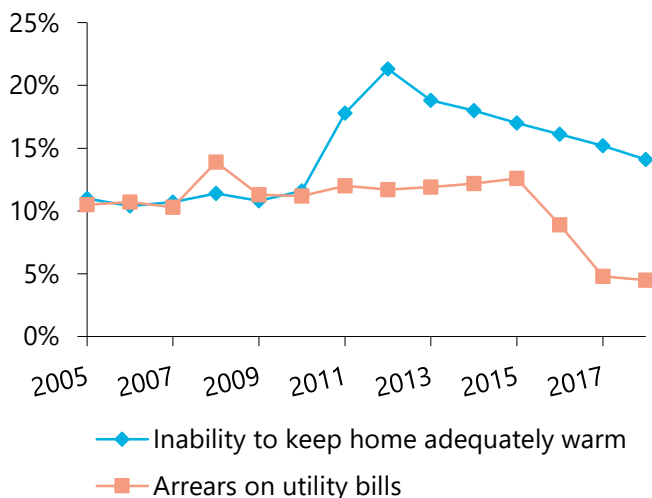
Italy's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is slightly better than the EU average. The share of households that spend a low share of their income on energy expenditure in 2010 is 13.6% which is slightly lower than the EU average. These households might restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

No data was available on the high share of energy expenditure in income due to validity concerns following the national data collection process.

Performance relative to EU average*



Performance over time*



In Italy, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately warm increased sharply between 2010 and 2012, from 11.6% to 21.3%. This may be due to the financial crisis and increase in the price per unit for electricity and gas. The value gradually decreased to 14.1% by 2018.

Meanwhile the percentage of the population on arrears on utility bills remains relatively constant throughout the years and decreased notably from 12.6% to 4.8% between 2015 and 2017. By the year 2018, the arrears on utility bills decreased to 4.5%.

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.

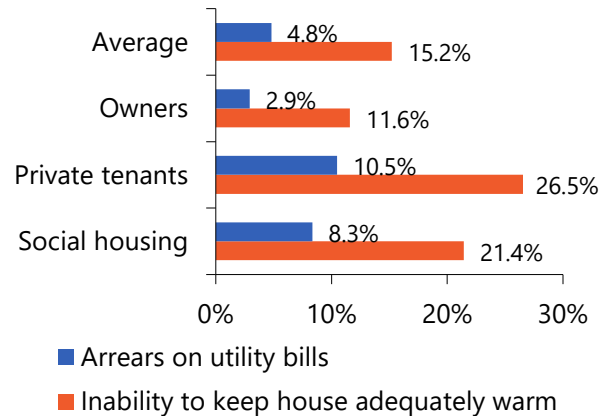
*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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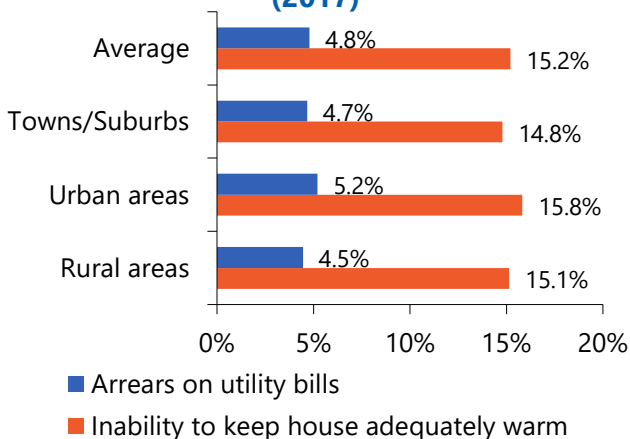
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2017)*



The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Italy is highest for the private tenant sector in 2017, at 26.5% for inability to keep the house warm and 10.5% for arrears on utility bills. The social housing sector is the second most vulnerable tenure type.

The private tenancy and social housing sectors, account for 18% and 10% of the population in Italy, respectively. The data indicates that the majority of the population in Italy are house owners, which are at lower risk of energy poverty.

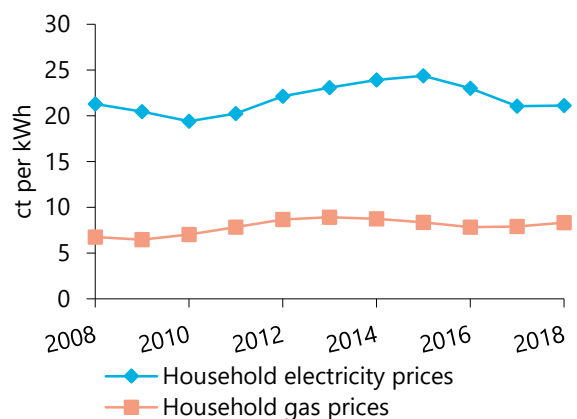
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by urban density (2017)*



In Italy, for 2017, urban areas have the lowest performance for ability to keep the house adequately warm and having arrears on utility bills, very closely followed by town/suburb and also rural areas. This indicates that energy poverty in Italy is not particularly sensitive to the urban density and that poor populations are spread across all types of areas.

Urban areas, intermediately populated areas and rural areas account for 34%, 41% and 25% of the population, respectively, for 2017. Italy has the highest population in intermediate density areas as opposed to urban areas for the EU average. The data also shows that energy poverty is distributed somewhat evenly across all dwelling types, despite having 52% of the population living in apartments.

Italy household energy costs over time



The household energy prices over time in Italy has increased from 2010 to reach a peak in 2014 and 2015, with electricity at 24.4 €ct/kWh and gas at 8.74 €ct/kWh. The price per unit decreased to the 2018 values of 21.1 €ct/kWh for electricity and 8.33 €ct/kWh for gas.

The largest increase in price was between 2010 and 2012, and may be due to the financial crisis. This corresponds to the poorer performance of household indicators between these two years, as observed earlier.

*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.



Member State Report

Italy

POLICIES & MEASURES

The first national study on energy poverty in Italy was published in 2014 (Faiella and Lavecchia 2014). It was a statistical analysis on energy poverty, which suggested the use of a modified low income high costs indicator. This research was followed by additional research on energy poverty and related concepts (Federesco 2017, Faiella, Lavecchia and Borgarello 2017).

In the National Energy and Climate Action Plan (NECP), submitted to the EU Commission at the end of 2019, Italy established targets and policies in order to fight energy poverty. Existing policies addressing energy poverty include electricity and gas social bonuses and two tax deductions on electricity and heating fuel. The electricity and gas social bonuses provide, in the form of a bill discount, an amount that varies as a function of the number of family members and, with respect only to the gas social bonus, as a function of the climatic zone and the type of use. There is also an electricity bill discount available to people reliant on life-saving medical equipment. As regards the measures for improving the energy efficiency of households, there is a tax deduction for the energy refurbishment of buildings (known as "Ecobonus") recently extended to families living in energy poverty and to social housing institutes. Italy, as highlighted in the NECP, intends to review the existing instruments, strengthen the strategy for fighting energy poverty and setting up an Institutional Observatory of Energy Poverty with the aim of monitoring the phenomenon as well as supporting the policy makers in identifying policies, including information measures, promotion, training and assistance to public subjects, operators and stakeholders.

Various European projects related to energy poverty are implemented in Italy such as ASSIST, EnerSHIFT, FIESTA, LEMON and SMART-UP. Italy is also part of the Energy Efficiency in Low Income Households in Mediterranean (ELIH-Med) scheme which is funded by the European Union and focuses on identifying and experimenting on a large scale a set of practical and innovative technical options and financial mechanisms targeted to develop energy efficiency in low income housing.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Tax deductions for energy efficiency	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group	2007	
Reduction of available power	Disconnection protection	Regulator	Indebted households		
Financial assistance for heating costs	Energy bill support	Local government	Low-income households		
Gas bonus	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households	2009	
Electric bonus	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households, Chronically/severely diseased	2009	
VAT reduction for renovation	Building insulation, Cooling system, Household appliances, Heating system	National government	No specific target group		
Heat account	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group	2012	
Energy Social Housing Innovative Financing Tender (EnerSHIFT)	Building insulation, heating system	European Union, Regional government	No specific target group	2016	
Less Energy More Opportunities (LEMON)	Building insulation, Information and awareness	European Union	No specific target group	2016	

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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

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

Organisation

Name: Agenzia per l'Innovazione, lo Sviluppo e la Formazione (AISFOR)
Organisation type: Research & Consultancy
Description: AISFOR is an Italian company working on green and social topics. Since 2015 it is focusing on tackling energy poverty. It is the coordinator of ASSIST, a European project with the objective of tackling energy poverty and support vulnerable consumers to efficiently manage their energy consumption.

Organisation

Name: Energy Social Housing Innovative Financing Tender (EnerSHIFT)
Organisation type: Research & Consultancy
Description: EnerSHIFT aims at launching €14,59 million of energy investments with the retrofitting of around 43 social housing buildings throughout the 4 provinces of Liguria. The scope of social housing in Italy is quite narrow and addresses the most vulnerable part of the population

Publication

Title: [National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan \(NECP\)](#)
Authors: Italian Government (Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports)
Year: 2019
Description: The NECP confirms that the Italian government is committed to strengthen the strategy for fighting energy poverty, to adopt an official definition and national indicators on energy poverty, and to create an Italian Energy Poverty Observatory.

Training Resource

Title: [A tenant's guide to managing your energy](#)
Authors: Attrattivita Ricerca Territorio (ART-ER)
Year: 2019
Description: A practical guide for social housing tenants on how to reduce energy consumption. It helps households reduce energy related behaviour and their environmental impact. Included is a questionnaire which explains household energy use and related areas which might be adapted without significant life style changes.

Other selected publications

- Miniaci, R., Scarpa, C. and Valbonesi, P. (2008) [Distributional Effects of Price Reforms in the Italian Utility Markets](#)
- European Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Project (EPEE) (2009) [Diagnosis of causes and consequences of fuel poverty in Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom](#)
- Faiella, I. and Lavecchia, L. (2014) [Energy Poverty in Italy \(in Italian\)](#)
- Faiella, I., Lavecchia, L. and Borgarello, M. (2017) [A new measure of households' energy poverty \(in Italian\)](#)
- Federesco, Federconsumatori, Unione Nazionale Consumatori, AiCARR (2017) [Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency \(in Italian\)](#)
- Faiella, I. and Lavecchia, L. (2017) [Energy Poverty in Italy](#)
- Stagnaro, C. et al. (2017) [The liberalization of Italy's retail electricity market: a policy proposal](#)
- Autorità di Regolazione per Energia Reti e Ambiente (2018) [The social bonus for electricity and natural gas: implementation status for 2017 \(in Italian\)](#)

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.