



Member State Report Malta

DATA & STATISTICS

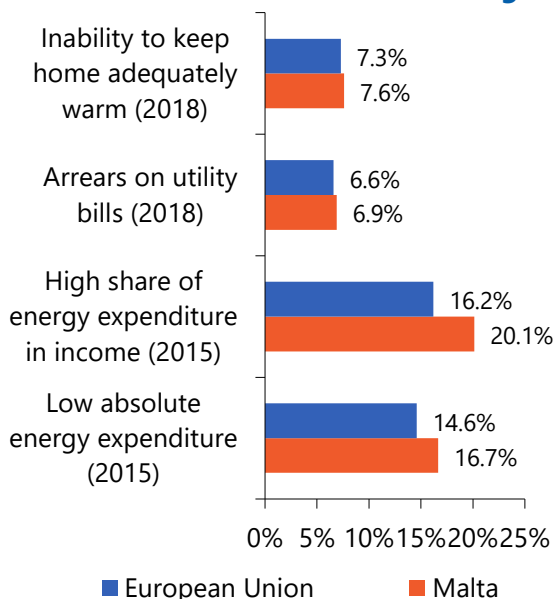
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Malta at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Malta.

Malta has a marginally lower performance than the EU average on the household-reported indicators. In 2018, 7.6% of households reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.3%. Similarly for 2018, 6.9% were unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

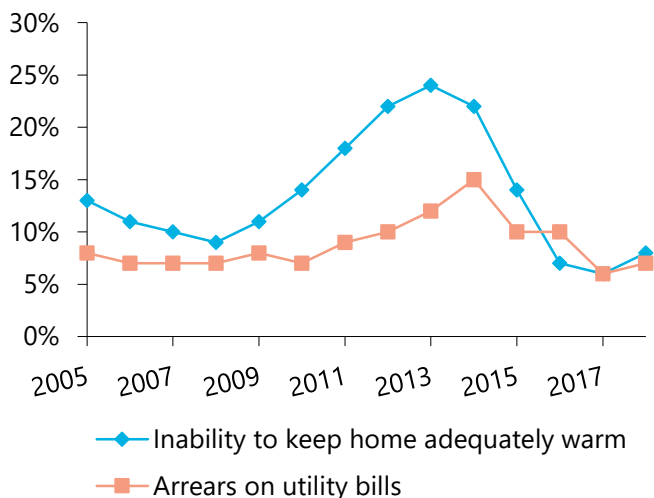
Malta's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is lower than the EU average for 2010. The share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 20.1% which is higher than the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

Moreover, at 16.7% Malta has a marginally higher number of households that spend a low share of their income on energy expenditure than the EU average. These households might restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

Performance relative to EU average*



Performance over time*



In Malta, the percentage of households that are unable to keep the home adequately warm increased from 9% in 2008 to a maximum peak of 24% in 2013 most likely largely explained by the financial crisis. It decreased to 6% in 2017 which may be a result of investment in the energy infrastructure as well as improvement of the economic conditions. Meanwhile households on arrears on utility bills follow a different trajectory and increased slowly from 7% in 2010 to 15% in 2014. It is noted that the arrears on utility bills indicator might not capture the ability to pay for LPG. LPG is used in the majority of households for heating and cooking and is purchased by consumers directly from the supplier in cylinders.

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.

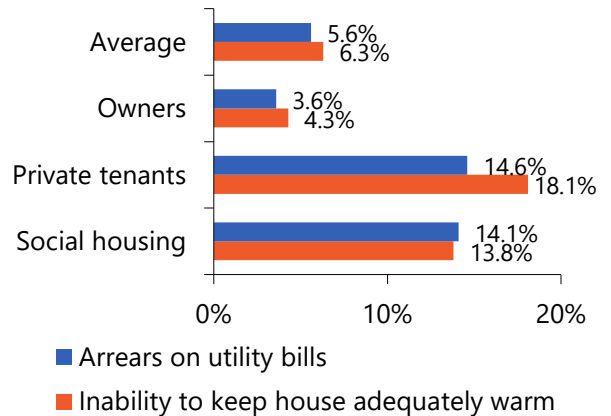
*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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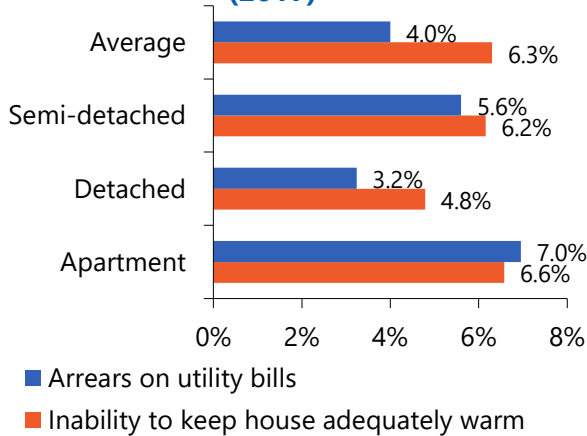
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Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2017)*



The disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Malta is highest for the private tenant sector at 18.1% for inability to keep the house warm and 14.6% for arrears on utility bills. This may be due to an increase in rental prices for residential dwellings in the past few years. The social housing sector closely follows the private tenants sector. The private tenant sector accounts for 5% of the population in Malta, while social housing is 14% of the population. This suggests that almost one fifth of the Maltese population is at higher risk of energy poverty.

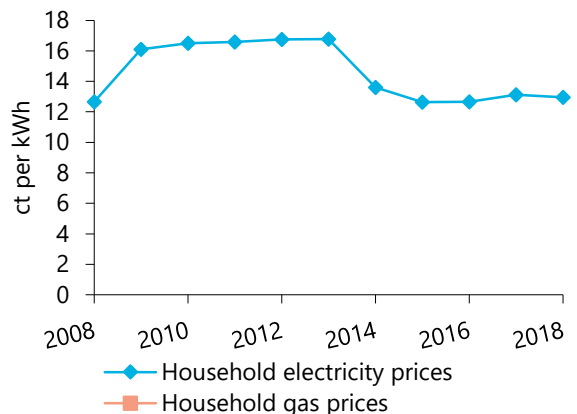
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by dwelling type (2017)*



In Malta, people living in an apartment dwelling type have the lowest performance for the ability to keep the house adequately warm and having arrears on utility bills. Apartment dwellings account for 55% of the population in Malta. The majority of social housing and private tenant tenure types are apartment dwellings.

The performance of semi-detached dwellings are similar to that of apartment dwellings. However the inability to keep house warm is higher than the arrears on utility bills in this case.

Malta household energy price over time



The household energy cost over time in Malta has fluctuated over the years. There is a sharp increase between 2008 and 2009 where the electricity price increases from 12.6 €ct/kWh to 16.1 per €ct/kWh. The highest price per kWh is in 2013 at 16.6 €ct. The electricity price decreases to 12.7 €ct/kWh in 2016. It is noted that the household gas price is not the best indicator for Malta as the majority of heating and cooking is based on LPG.

*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

In Malta, research focusing on energy poverty is limited. Publications related to analysis of the energy poverty in Malta could not be found. However, indicators on energy poverty are included in Malta's Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction and for Social Inclusion (2014-2024).

The most important instrument addressing energy poverty in Malta is the *energy benefit* scheme, which provides financial assistance to households to pay for their electricity and LPG bills. The measure focuses on specific vulnerable groups: low income households, households on social benefits, pensioners, the disabled, and the unemployed. It is funded by the national government and does not target a specific household category.

In addition, there are programmes to stimulate energy efficiency and renewable energy in households. The *Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme* requires electricity and natural gas suppliers to achieve a certain amount of energy savings. In this scheme, the national government may require a share of energy efficiency measures to be implemented as a priority in households affected by energy poverty. The support schemes for renewable energy and insulation provides financial assistance to households to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency options even though these are not specifically targeted to energy poor households.

The *Energy Efficiency in Low Income Households in Mediterranean* (ELIH-Med) project has also been active in Malta. As the name implies the country participants of this programme are all within the Mediterranean region. The ELIH-Med focused on large-scale identification and experimentation on a set of practical and innovative technical options and financial mechanisms targeted to develop energy efficiency in low-income housing. This programme was started in 2011 and was a European public funded project.

Another European project in Malta is the SMART-UP (Consumer empowerment in a smart meter world). This encourages the active use of smart meters by vulnerable consumers. It encourages the consumer to change their energy behaviour by monitoring their in-home displays. Social workers and other frontline staff have been trained within the project to advise and empower vulnerable households to become more energy efficient. This was started in the year 2015 and has a target of engaging 5000 vulnerable households in total.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Support schemes for renewable energy and insulation	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group		
Energy Benefit	Energy bill support	National government	Disabled, Households on social benefits, Low-income households, Pensioners, Unemployed		
Energy efficiency obligations	Information and awareness	Energy suppliers, Grid operator	No specific target group		
Energy Efficiency in Low Income Households in Mediterranean (ELIH-Med)	Heating system, household appliances	European Union	Low income households	2011	
Consumer empowerment in a smart meter world (SMART-UP)	Energy Audits, Information and awareness	European Union	Vulnerable households	2015	



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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

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

Organisation

Name: Consumer empowerment in a smart meter world (SMART-UP)

Organisation type: Research & Consultancy

Description:

The project encourages the use of smart meters and in-home displays by vulnerable consumers to change their energy behaviour. Social workers and frontline staff have been trained to advise and empower vulnerable households to become more energy efficient.

Organisation

Name: Institute for Sustainable Energy

Organisation type: Research & Consultancy

Description: The Institute of Sustainable Energy within the University of Malta monitors developments related to energy utilization in sectors such as demography, economy and industry. Analysis of trends of sector energy use provide basis for a strategy for the application of energy conservation and renewable energies.

Publication

Title: Structural energy poverty vulnerability and excess winter mortality in the European Union: Exploring the association between structural determinants and health

Authors: Recalde, M. et al.

Year: 2019

Description: Energy poverty is structurally determined by broader political and socio-economic conditions. The aim was to analyse the configuration of these determinants in each Member State through the creation of a structural energy poverty vulnerability (SEPV) index.

Publication

Title: [Analysis of the current energy support mechanism for low income groups and investigation of alternative energy support measures to support vulnerable consumers in Malta.](#)

Authors: Formosa, A.

Year: 2015

Description: An In-depth analysis of the energy consumption patterns of vulnerable consumers, the modelling of a proposed definition appropriate to the local context, and an analysis of the impact that the application of this definition will have

Other selected publications

- No other publications found for Malta in the field of energy poverty.

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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