

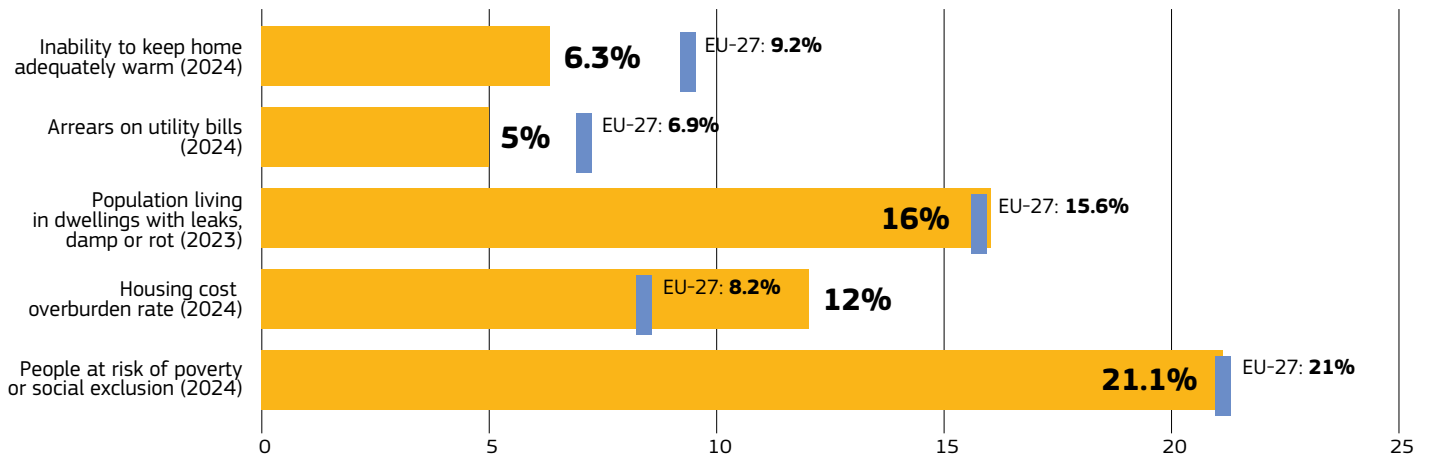


NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY DEFINITION

Germany has not yet established an official definition of energy poverty.

ENERGY POVERTY EPAH INDICATORS

A selection of indicators, based on the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1563 on energy poverty.



[EPAH'S ENERGY POVERTY INDICATORS DASHBOARD](#)



NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Germany has not established national energy poverty indicators and therefore did not define targets.



NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY GOVERNANCE

KEY POLICIES ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

YEAR	LAW	DESCRIPTION
2020	Long-Term Building Renovation Strategy	It outlines Germany’s pathway to a climate-neutral building stock by 2045. It emphasises the need to increase both the rate and depth of renovations, while reducing the financial burden on low-income households and promoting social housing renovation. The strategy establishes affordability as a guiding principle. Although energy poverty is not used as an explicit policy concept, the LTRS addresses it indirectly through social law instruments such as basic social security and housing benefits. The strategy identifies worst-performing buildings as a key challenge, noting that many low-income households live in inefficient housing.
2023	Energy Efficiency Act	It sets binding national targets for reducing final energy consumption and introduces new obligations for federal and regional authorities to lead by example in saving energy. It also addresses households which do not have the financial resources for essential energy services or investments in energy efficiency measures. While primarily focused on institutional and industrial energy use, the law also mandates improved coordination between national, regional, and local actors in promoting household energy efficiency. It calls for enhanced energy advice, data transparency, and awareness campaigns, indirectly benefiting households.
2024	Federal Heat Planning Law	It obliges all municipalities to prepare local heat plans by 2026–2028 as part of Germany’s pathway to climate-neutral heating. The law establishes the principle of an affordable and efficient heat supply as a core objective, considering the cost burden on households when planning local heat transitions.
2024	National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030	The NECP is Germany’s roadmap for energy and climate policy through 2030, outlining plans to meet EU objectives via energy savings, efficiency improvements, and expansion of renewables. It recognises the need to ensure energy affordability and protect vulnerable households. The Plan states that the Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to reducing poverty that includes energy expenditures but does not allow to focus on sector specific individual needs, such as energy.

NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY

Germany does not have a National Energy Poverty Observatory.

EPAH ANTENNAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

EPAH Antenna: EPAH has established partnerships with energy-poverty stakeholders across all EU Member States. In Germany, the EPAH Antenna is Climate Alliance through its headquarters. Climate Alliance is a core partner in the EPAH consortium. Website: <https://www.climatealliance.org/home.html>. Contact: kristina.eisfeld@energypoverty.eu. Check [EPAH’s Organisations List](#) to discover other energy poverty stakeholders in the country.





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NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

This section highlights a selection of ongoing national measures and local initiatives addressing energy poverty. Further projects and updated information are available in the online EPAH Atlas database.

EPAH ATLAS DATABASE 



MEASURES	DESCRIPTION
Citizen's benefit (according to SGB II) and social assistance (according to SGB XII) <i>[since 2005]</i>	<p>Households receiving basic social security (SGB II and SGB XII) are formally entitled to support for energy expenses, with heating costs covered as part of housing allowances and electricity included in the standard benefit rate. Heating costs are reimbursed in full if they are below a reasonable threshold which is defined locally. Electricity for household use (excluding heating) is treated as a general consumption good being included as a fixed component of the standard lumpsum benefit which is calculated based statistical data (average spending on electricity costs for low-income households). This support was not designed explicitly for energy poverty. It is a general subsistence welfare measure where energy needs are bundled under general living costs.</p>
Wohngeld Plus (housing benefit) <i>[reformed in 2023]</i>	<p>A government subsidy towards housing costs – for both rented and owner-occupied properties. It supports low-income households above the basic social security level, thus ensuring adequate housing. In 2023, the Wohngeld Plus reform expanded Germany's long-standing housing benefit scheme to around 1.2 million households and introduced a heating component (flat-rate cost allowance tiered according to the number of people) and a climate component (flat-rate offset for higher rents resulting from energy-efficient renovations and energy-efficient new construction).</p>
Bundesförderung für effiziente Gebäude (federal funding for efficient buildings) <i>[since 2021]</i>	<p>Launched in 2021, the BEG is the central German federal subsidy programme for energy-efficient building renovation. It supports private homeowners, landlords, housing companies, municipalities, non-profits and others, with grants or low-interest loans for measures such as insulation, window replacement, installation of renewable heating systems (heat pumps, biomass), and other efficiency upgrades. Since 2024, the programme includes an income bonus: an extra subsidy rate available to low- or moderate-income owner-occupiers for heating modernisation.</p>



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NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
Stromspar-Check	<p>The Stromspar-Check is a programme covering about 40% of Germany, corresponding to around 60 %of the population. It is run by Caritas and the Federal Association of Energy and Climate Agencies. The programme supports low-income households, particularly recipients of social benefits, in reducing electricity, water, and heating costs. Trained energy advisers, many of whom are long-term unemployed, visit households to measure consumption, provide tailored advice, and install free energy-saving devices such as LED lamps, plug strips, and water-saving fittings. The programme is project-based and dependent on temporary federal funding.</p>
Energieberatung der Verbraucherzentralen (Energy advice from consumer advice centres)	<p>Energy advice services provided by the consumer advice centers (coordinated by the „Vebrucherzentrale Bundesverband“, vzbv) offer support to private customers on energy saving and energy efficiency. Nationwide, nearly 1,000 energy advisors assist private households. In 2023, 270,000 persons sought advice at approximately 900 locations across Germany, via telephone, online, or directly in their homes. In addition to encouraging behavioral changes, the consultations are intended, among other things, to initiate efficiency measures such as refurbishment and to prevent misguided renovation decisions. The energy advice services offered by the consumer advice centers are free of charge or available for a small cost contribution in the case of in-home consultations; for low-income households, they are generally free of charge.</p>
Dortmund Balcony Solar Programme	<p>The Dortmund Balcony Solar Programme provides subsidies for plug-in photovoltaic modules, enabling tenants and homeowners in multi-family buildings to generate their own electricity. Eligible households can receive a grant covering 50% of costs, while welfare recipients benefit up to 95% of eligible expenses. The programme aims to make solar energy accessible to low-income households, promoting energy self-generation and reducing electricity bills.</p>

FURTHER READING

- [Identifying and supporting vulnerable households in light of rising fossil energy costs](#)
- [Energy transition in Europe: Best practices from selected countries & recommendations for Germany](#)
- [Consequences of the energy crisis: How much households pay for heating/hot water and electricity](#)
- [Energy Poverty in Europe and Germany: A gender-sensitive report](#)



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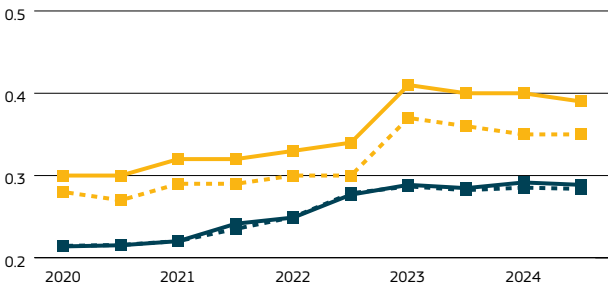
MEMBER STATE BACKGROUND

Germany is a Central European country with a predominantly temperate seasonal climate. The country has a population of [83,456,045 people](#). The real GDP per capita in 2024 was [43,110 euros](#), which is above the EU-27 average value (33,650 euros). Germany has a Gini coefficient of [29.5](#) (a measure of economic inequality), which is similar to the EU-27 average value of 29.4

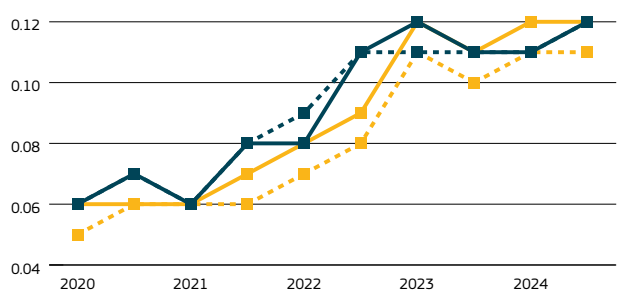
ENERGY PRICES

Germany (in EURO) Germany (in PPP) EU-27 (in EURO) EU-27 (in PPP)

ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

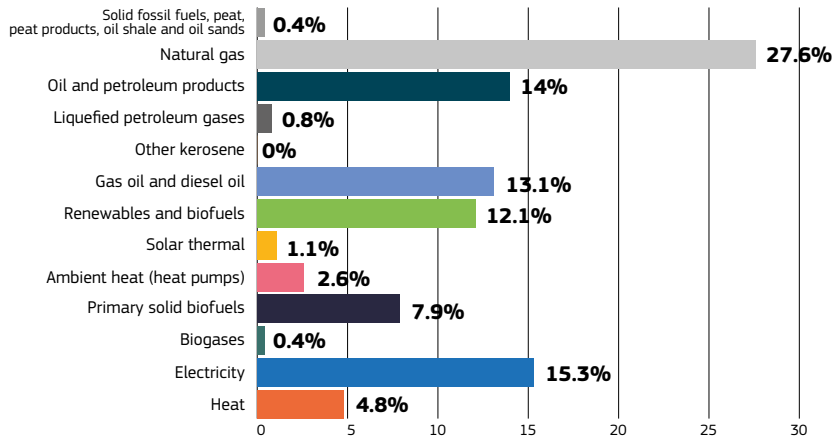


GAS PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

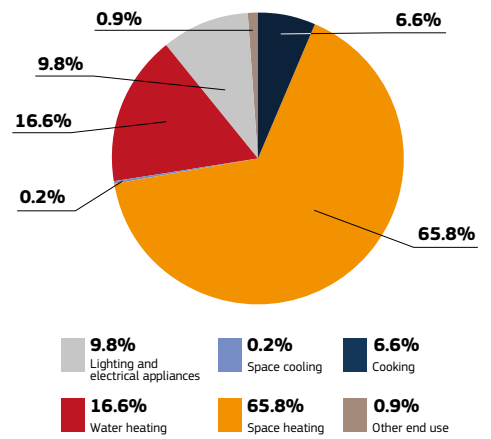


HOUSEHOLDS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN HOUSEHOLDS BY ENERGY SOURCE (2024)



FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN HOUSEHOLDS BY END USE (2024)



VULNERABLE AND HARD TO REACH

Note: All data shown as a share of the total population of the country (2024). [Source](#).

	Low income	34%
	Low education	14%

	Rural households	19%
	Elderly households	20%
	Young households	13%
	Single parents	5%

	Migrants	20%
	Unemployed persons	3%
	Ill-health and disabilities	31%
	Tenants	53%