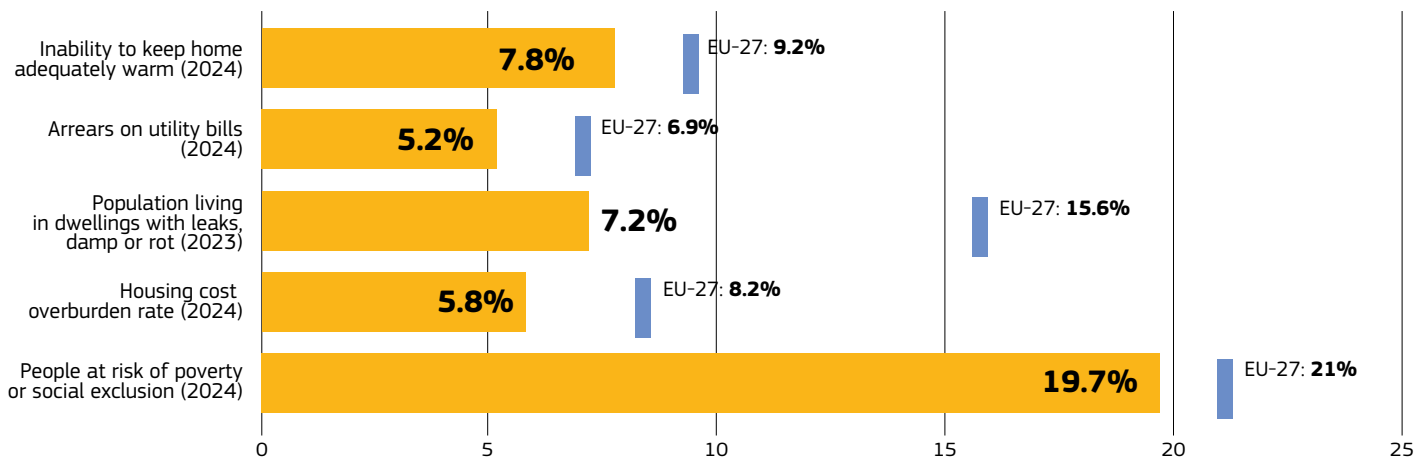


NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY DEFINITION

Malta adopts the definition of energy poverty set out in the Energy Efficiency Directive recast which is acknowledged in the updated [National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 \(2024 version\)](#). This definition, also found in the [Electricity Regulations S.L.545.34](#) states that “energy poverty means a household’s lack of access to essential energy services, where such services provide basic levels and decent standards of living and health, including adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting, and energy to power appliances, in the relevant national context, existing national social policy and other relevant national policies, caused by a combination of factors, including at least non-affordability, insufficient disposable income, high energy expenditure and poor energy efficiency of homes”.

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

In the updated [National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 \(2024\)](#), the high share of energy expenditure in income indicator (also referred to as 2M) is used to quantify energy poverty in the country, measuring the proportion of households whose energy expenditure is more than twice the national median. Malta has defined a two-step approach: first, households with low disposable income are identified; then, among these households, those with energy expenditure more than twice the national median are identified. Using this approach, 3,747 households were identified as energy-poor, representing approximately 1.74% of all households.

The [National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035](#) established targets for a 3.1% decrease in the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate and a 6% decrease in the number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030. While the broader poverty reduction targets are not directed at energy poverty specifically, they may nonetheless have an indirect, complementary effect on alleviating energy-related hardship among vulnerable households.



NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY GOVERNANCE

KEY POLICIES ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

YEAR	LAW	DESCRIPTION
2014	National Strategic Policy for Poverty Reduction and for Social Inclusion 2014-2024	The first comprehensive strategy designed to coordinate action on poverty and social inclusion, serving as the predecessor to the 2025-2035 strategy. While it did not explicitly refer to energy poverty as a distinct concept, it addressed energy-related aspects indirectly through broader measures on energy efficiency, housing conditions, and sustainable energy use.
2020	Long-Term Building Renovation Strategy	The LTRS is Malta’s strategic framework aimed at transforming the building stock by 2050. It acknowledges energy poverty as a challenge within the scope of the strategy, providing an assessment of the status-quo based on EU-SILC indicators and on the profiles of energy-poor households in the country. The LTRS mentions actions such as energy bills support, energy efficiency packages, renovation schemes, and advisory services.
2024	National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030	The NECP is Malta’s updated strategic framework for meeting EU energy and climate targets for 2030. It explicitly acknowledges energy poverty and proposes an indicator to assess its prevalence. The plan also includes measures, such as discounts on utility bills, tailored energy efficiency schemes for vulnerable households, renovation of social housing, cooling support for the elderly, advice on reducing energy consumption, and grants for the replacement of inefficient appliances.
2025	National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035	Malta’s overarching 10-year policy framework aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion through a holistic set of coordinated interventions that go beyond income measures to include access to education, healthcare, employment, and social support. The Strategy acknowledges the importance of ensuring affordable energy access and protecting households against energy poverty, including in the context of the increased frequency of heat waves. It also includes measures aimed at replacing inefficient equipment, renovating social housing, and supporting older persons in cooling their homes through the uptake of energy-efficient equipment, maintenance, and power generation
Ongoing	Social Climate Plan	Malta is developing its Social Climate Plan. A draft document was made available for public consultation in May 2025. The final draft was transmitted to the European Commission in November 2025.





NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY GOVERNANCE

NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY

Malta does not have an official National Energy Poverty Observatory.

EPAH ANTENNAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

EPAH Antenna: EPAH has established partnerships with stakeholders on energy poverty in all EU Member States. In Malta, the EPAH Antenna is the Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA). MIEMA's work on energy poverty in Malta focuses on improving energy efficiency for vulnerable households, supporting local authorities in sustainable energy planning, providing specialised training, advancing urban energy methodologies, and raising community awareness to reduce energy burdens. Website: www.miema.org. Contact: info@miema.org. 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
Benefiċċju tal-Energija (energy benefit) <i>[at least since mid-2010s]</i>	This scheme provides direct financial assistance to low-income and vulnerable households by reducing water and electricity bills. Eligible beneficiaries, identified primarily through receipt of social security benefits and income thresholds, receive a deduction equivalent to 30% of their annual electricity consumption, up to a maximum of €75 per household member per year. The scheme also includes subsidies towards electricity and water meter rental charges, which are deducted directly from utility bills.
Eco-Reduction <i>[from early 2020s]</i>	This scheme provides a direct rebate on a portion of household electricity bills for consumers whose annual consumption is below defined thresholds. It typically offers a 15-25 % reduction on consumption for households with low energy consumption which helps lower energy costs for low-income or energy-efficient households.
Vulnerable Households Scheme <i>[from early 2020s]</i>	Run by the Energy & Water Agency, in collaboration with social welfare partners, offers tailored support to socially vulnerable families to improve energy and water efficiency in their homes by providing free advice on reducing consumption and replacement of old, inefficient appliances with new energy-efficient ones when justified. The scheme typically involves home visits by technical experts to assess usage and identify opportunities for savings.
Energy and Water Awareness Household Visits <i>[at least since 2015]</i>	The Energy & Water Agency's household visits are a free service in which technical officers assess electricity and water use patterns, review typical bills, and give tailored advice for more efficient energy and water use. The service is available to all households and has been provided for many years, with thousands of visits carried out to date.

NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
ISLET: Innovative Supporting schemes for community-Led Energy Transition	<p>An EU-funded project under the LIFE programme (2023-2026) that supports collaboration among public authorities, private investors and citizens to create and grow renewable energy communities on small Mediterranean islands. The project develops inclusive methodologies to help island municipalities, like those in Gozo, engage citizens in community-led clean energy planning.</p>
Energy Efficiency in Low-Income Housing in the Mediterranean (ELIH-Med)	<p>An EU-funded project (partly funded from Interreg Med) designed to identify and test cost-effective technical solutions and innovative financing mechanisms for improving energy efficiency in low-income homes across Mediterranean countries. From 2011 to 2014, it involved energy audits, stakeholder engagement, awareness-raising and pilot retrofitting interventions. In Malta, MIEMA implemented retrofits and installed solar technologies in low-income houses.</p>
DAWL – Energy, Employment, Empowerment Initiative	<p>This project, partly funded by the European Union’s Social Fund, led by the voluntary organisation SOS Malta with partners including the Paolo Freire Institute and Friends of the Earth Malta in 2007-2008, supported unemployed women and low-income households by combining employment training with energy and water awareness activities.</p>

FURTHER READING

- [Central Bank of Malta Discussion Paper: Interpreting Recent Developments in Poverty and Social Exclusion in Malta](#)
- [National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035](#)



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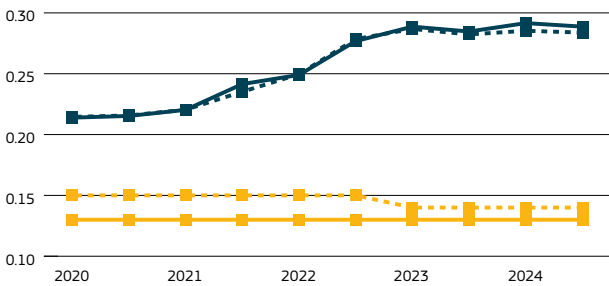
MEMBER STATE BACKGROUND

Malta is a small island country in Southern Europe with a Mediterranean climate. The country has a population of [563,443 people](#). The real GDP per capita in 2024 was [34,650 euros](#), which is above the EU-27 average value (33,650 euros). Malta has a Gini coefficient of [30.8](#) (a measure of economic inequality), which is above the EU-27 average value of 29.4.

ENERGY PRICES

— Malta (in EURO) - - - Malta (in PPP) — EU-27 (in EURO) - - - EU-27 (in PPP)

ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

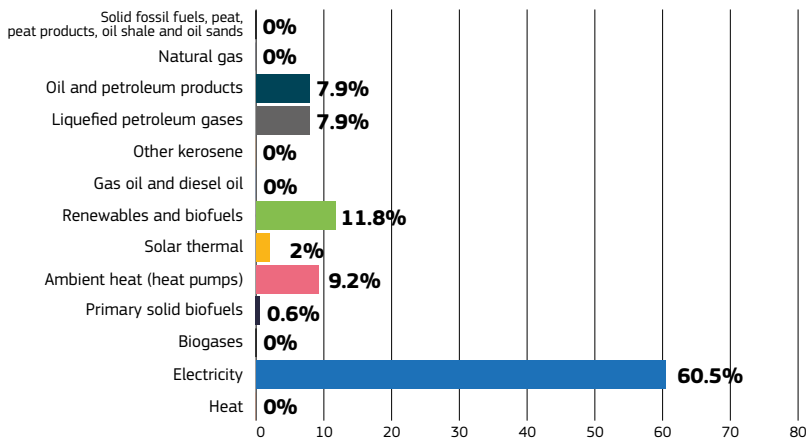


GAS PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

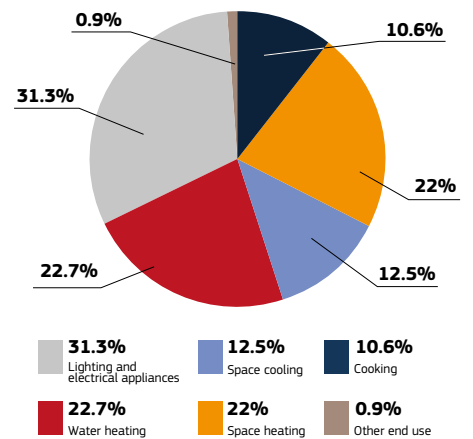


HOUSEHOLDS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

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	26%
	Low education	20%

	Rural households	2%
	Elderly households	12%
	Young households	13%
	Single parents	4%

	Migrants	31%
	Unemployed persons	2%
	Ill-health and disabilities	27%
	Tenants	32%