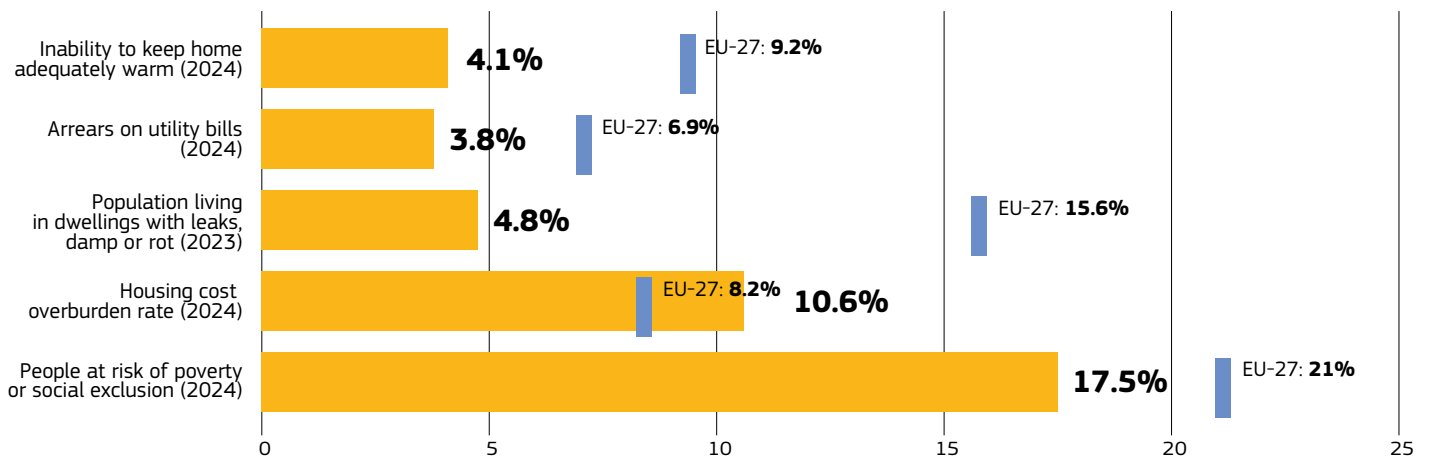


NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY DEFINITION

Sweden has not yet established an official definition of energy poverty. Still, in the [supporting document for the development of the Social Climate Plan](#), an interpretation of the concept of energy poverty has been provided as “households living in single-family houses with a low economic standard in combination with high energy costs”.

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

Sweden has not established national energy poverty indicators nor defined targets. Still, the occurrence of energy poverty in Sweden has been analysed in connection with the national implementation of the revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791. An analysis report ([Remissvar och uppdrag](#)) submitted by Swedish Energy agency assigned by the Swedish Government uses the definition and arithmetic average of the four EU-SILC indicators proposed by the EED for 2019 to estimate that energy poverty may affect 7.08% of the population. Alternatively, based on the indicator proposed in [the supporting document for the development of the Social Climate Plan](#) – households in single-family homes that have a low economic standard and energy costs as a share of disposable income that are higher than 75% of households living in single-family homes – the number of energy-poor households is estimated at 120,000, corresponding to 2.5% of all Swedish households.



NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY GOVERNANCE

KEY POLICIES ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

YEAR	LAW	DESCRIPTION
2001	Social Services Act	Sweden’s social services law assigns municipalities the responsibility for ensuring that all residents enjoy a reasonable standard of living. It requires social services to provide support when households cannot cover essential costs, including housing, electricity, and heating. Although the Act does not mention energy poverty, it is a safety net for households experiencing economic hardship, whether energy-related or not
2020	Long-Term Building Renovation Strategy	The strategy describes how the national building stock should be upgraded to improve energy performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions until 2050. It mentions split incentives, market barriers, and worst performing buildings as challenges to be overcome. The LTRS states that Sweden makes no distinction between energy poverty and general poverty, and that the issue is managed within the broader context of social policy.
2024	National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030	The NECP outlines the country’s strategy for meeting EU 2030 climate and energy goals. It sets no specific targets for energy poverty, highlighting the role of existing social and energy market legislation to protect vulnerable households. In addition to social policies, the NECP mentions other measures such as support to mitigate high energy prices and informational campaigns.
2025	Social Climate Plan	Sweden has formally approved its Social Climate Plan. Only one measure is proposed – an electric vehicle premium for transport vulnerable households.

NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY

Sweden does not have a National Energy Poverty Observatory.

EPAH ANTENNAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

EPAH Antenna: EPAH has established partnerships with energy poverty stakeholders in all EU Member States. In Sweden, the EPAH Antenna is the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). SEI serves as a hub for translating energy poverty research into policy impact. The institute submits referral responses on energy poverty policies, actively pursues funding for further research, and participates in reference groups for several national and international energy poverty projects.

Website: <https://www.sei.org/>. Contact: jenny.vonplatten@sei.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
<p>Ekonomiskt bistånd (financial assistance) <i>[since 1980]</i></p>	<p>Financial assistance is provided through the Social Services Act and serves as the primary safety net for households unable to meet essential living costs. Municipal social services assess each household’s situation and can cover necessary expenses, such as rent, heating, and electricity, when income is insufficient, meaning support for energy bills is embedded within broader welfare assistance rather than offered as a separate energy poverty programme. In 2024, around 145,500 households received financial assistance.</p>
<p>Energi- och klimatrådgivning (energy and climate advice) <i>[since 1997]</i></p>	<p>A collaboration between the Swedish Energy Agency and Swedish municipalities which provides impartial and free energy advisory services. It supports households, small businesses and organisations reduce energy use and make informed decisions on heating systems, energy efficiency, renewable energy and behavioural changes. Although it is not designed for energy-poor households, it can support them by offering personalised guidance on energy uses.</p>
<p>Bidrag för energieffektivisering i småhus (grants for energy efficiency in single-family homes) <i>[from 2023 to 2025; extension pending]</i></p>	<p>A national grant that supports owners of single-family homes heated with electricity or gas, in upgrading to more energy-efficient heating systems and improving the building envelope. The scheme was cancelled but is to be re-introduced, which means the exact details of the new scheme are yet to be decided. While the grant can help households facing high energy costs, it is not targeted at energy-poor households. In the budget bill for 2026, the government has proposed that it is extended to 2030.</p>





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NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
Energy poverty – from EU directive to municipal practice	<p>In an ongoing research project, competence centre Energikontor Syd is partnering with Eslöv municipality and IVL research institute to explore how Swedish municipalities are dealing with energy poverty today and how the issue can be handled more systematically. The project provides concrete guidelines to municipalities interested in improving their ability to help energy poor households.</p>
Energigemenskaper för ett mer robust energisystem (Energy communities for a more robust energy system)	<p>The Swedish Energy Agency promotes the formation of energy communities and is investing in developing knowledge about the benefits and challenges that energy communities can have, both for individual actors and for the energy system as a whole. The projects that receive support in our call for proposals Energy Communities and Energy Sharing are involved in joint development work.</p>
EPAH Technical Assistance	<p>The City of Malmo received support from EPAH's technical assistance programme. With the expertise of the Lund University, the project conducted an initial diagnosis and fostered collaboration to address energy poverty. It deployed tenant and landlord interviews, uncovering the struggle for tenants to maintain warmth despite “warm rent” (rent including heating) systems in Sweden, provided statistical mapping of energy vulnerability, and organised workshops with municipal staff.</p>

FURTHER READING

- [Energy poverty in Sweden](#)
- [Energy poverty in Malmö: A first mapping for the city of Malmö](#)
- [Energy poverty, power and capital: Moving beyond descriptive theories through the Swedish institutional case](#)
- [Energy poverty in Sweden: Using flexibility capital to describe household vulnerability to rising energy prices](#)
- [Knowledge overview of renovation and renovation](#)





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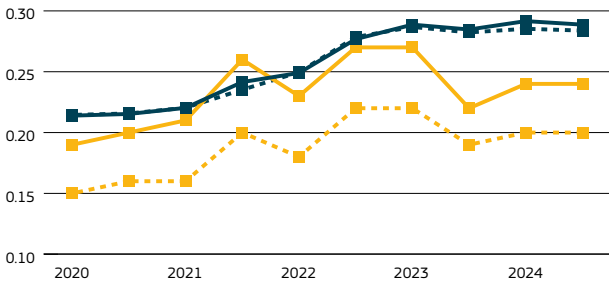
MEMBER STATE BACKGROUND

Sweden is a Northern European country with a cold Nordic climate. The country has a population of [10,551,707 people](#). The real GDP per capita in 2024 was [48,210 euros](#), which is above the EU-27 average value (33,650 euros). Sweden has a Gini coefficient of [27.6](#) (a measure of economic inequality), which is below the EU-27 average value of 29.4.

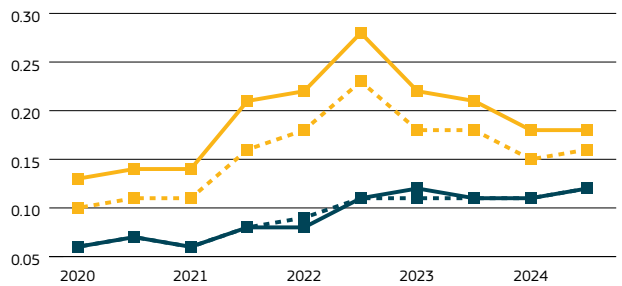
ENERGY PRICES

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

ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

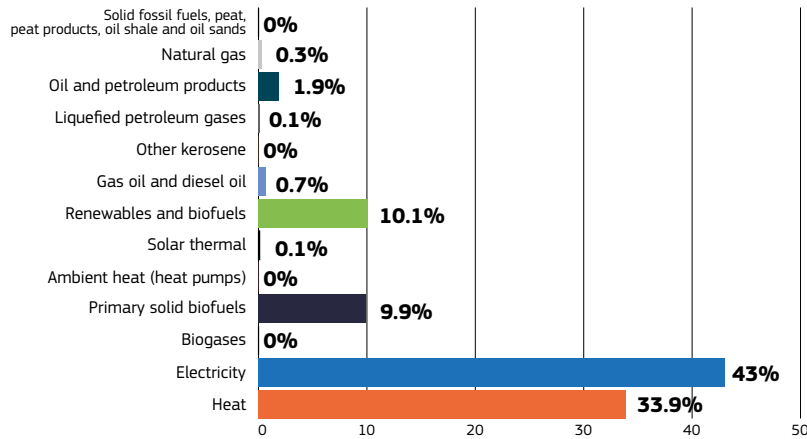


GAS PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

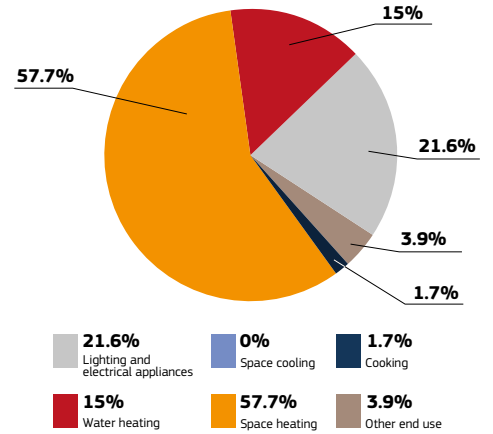


HOUSEHOLDS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

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	32%
	Low education	12%

	Rural households	19%
	Elderly households	20%
	Young households	16%
	Single parents	7%

	Migrants	21%
	Unemployed persons	6%
	Ill-health and disabilities	34%
	Tenants	35%