National indicator

Energy expenses by income quintile (income quintile 1)

Definition

This indicator measures household consumption expenditure on electricity, gas, and other fuels as a share of income, disaggregated by income quintile, reflecting the relative energy cost burden across different income groups.

Examples

A low-income household may be unable to switch energy provider because of limited access to information or digital tools, missing out on potentially better tariffs and facing a higher energy expenditure burden relative to income compared to higher-income households.

Two households recording the same share of energy expenditure may consume very different levels of energy, resulting in substantially different levels of energy services and thermal comfort, a distinction this indicator alone cannot capture.

Numbers

In 2020, the lowest-income households (quintile 1) in the EU spent between 3.3% (Finland) and 15.5% (Croatia) of their income on energy. Countries such as Croatia, Latvia, Bulgaria, and Greece recorded the highest energy expenditure burden for this group, while Finland, Luxembourg, and Spain recorded the lowest.

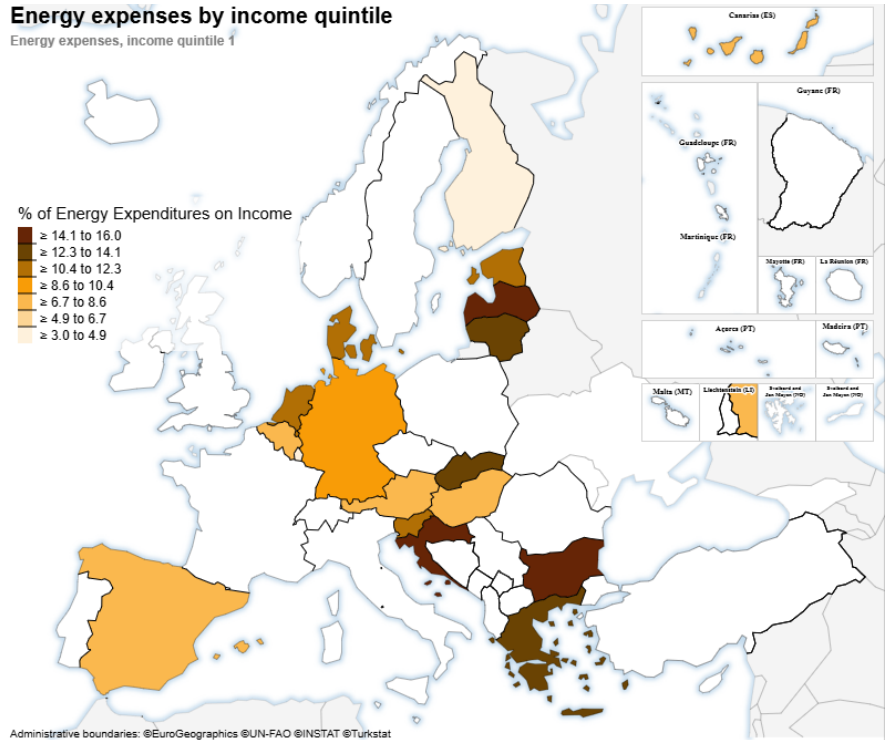
Limits

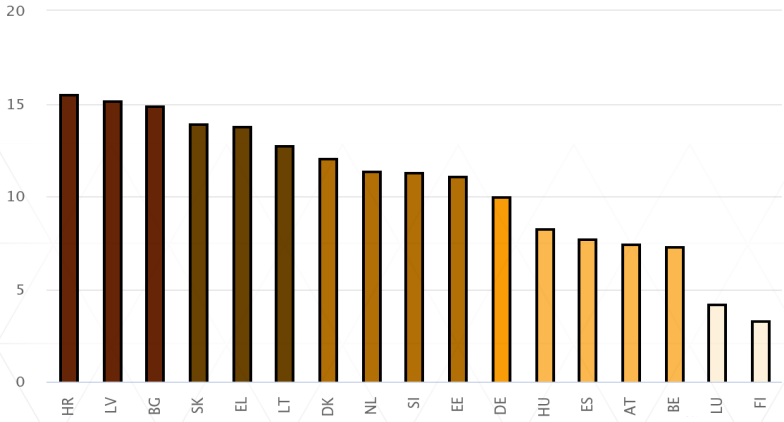
This indicator does not define any expenditure threshold, preventing direct quantification of the energy-poor population.

It does not capture the underlying causes of expenditure levels, such as dwelling energy efficiency, climate conditions, or household composition.

It does not reflect the level or type of energy consumption that determines the observed expenditure, limiting conclusions about energy services provision.

Additional insights in the EPAH report: **"Energy poverty national indicators: Insights for a more effective measuring"**





Unit: % of Energy Expenditures on Income | **Source:** EU-SILC

Data reporting period: 2005/2010/2015/2020

Administrative boundaries: ©EuroGeographics ©UN-FAO ©INSTAT ©Turkstat

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