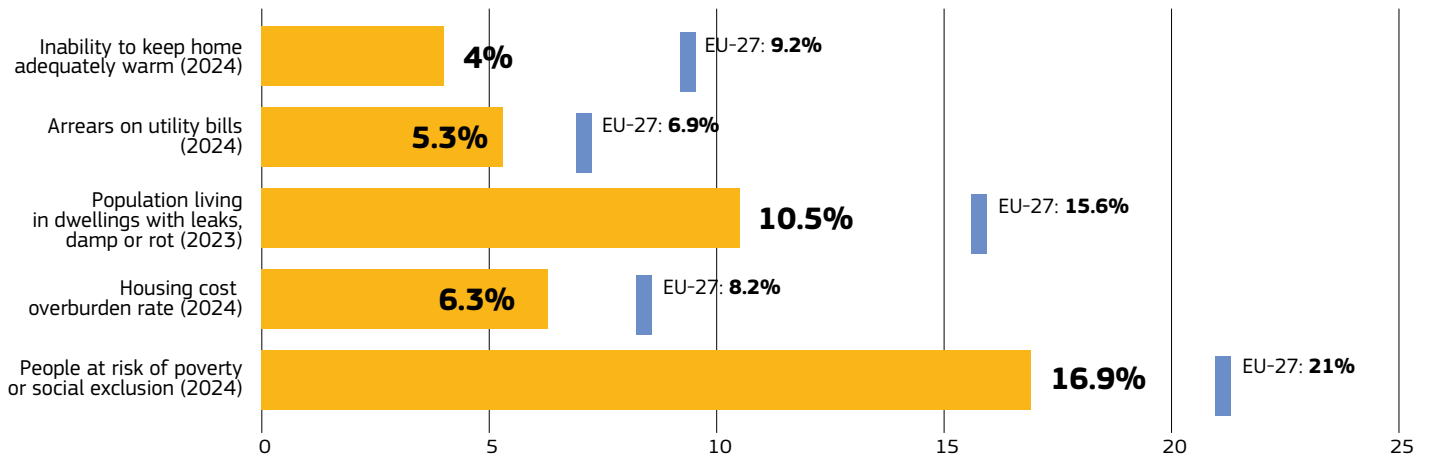


## NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY DEFINITION

In December 2025, Austria adopted a legally binding definition of energy poverty in national law through the [Energy Poverty Definition Act](#) which states that “households are considered energy-poor if they cannot provide, or can only provide insufficiently, the necessary funds for household energy expenditure (electricity, heating, hot water, cooling, cooking, lighting, operation of household appliances) to ensure a basic and adequate standard of living and health”.

## 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

Austria has defined and routinely publishes official national energy poverty indicators but has not yet established quantitative targets. The [Energy Poverty Definition Act](#) established the energy poverty indicators framework in Austria. In accordance with these provisions, [Statistik Austria](#) identifies 17 relevant indicators and calculates three composite indicators to measure energy poverty. In Austria, up to 12.1% of all households might be in energy poverty.

PRIMARY ENERGY POVERTY INDICATOR	VALUE (YEAR)	TARGET (YEAR)
Households with above-average energy expenditures for housing who are also at risk of poverty and households that are unable to keep their homes adequately warm	7.9% (2023)	-
Households included in indicator 1 plus households with arrears in utility payments	11% (2023)	-
Households included in indicator 2 plus households with leaky roofs, damp walls, floors, foundations, or rot	12.1% (2023)	-

## NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY GOVERNANCE

### KEY POLICIES ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

YEAR	LAW	DESCRIPTION
2020	<a href="#">Long-Term Building Renovation Strategy</a>	Recognises energy poverty as a key social challenge of building policy. It highlights the need for targeted measures for vulnerable households, particularly low-income groups or those living in poorly insulated buildings. The LTRS combines social and climate objectives, emphasising that renovation progress must not come at the expense of affordable housing.
2023	<a href="#">Energy Efficiency Act (EEffG)</a>	The Energy Efficiency Act legally establishes the creation of a Coordination Office for Energy Poverty (KEA). Its purpose is defined as reducing the number of energy-poor households and developing preventive measures. In accordance with the Energy Efficiency Act (2023), the federal government must implement appropriate measures to ensure that, in relation to cumulative final energy savings, savings for beneficiary households (low-income or energy-poor) amount to at least 3%.
2024	<a href="#">National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030</a>	The Austrian NECP explicitly addresses energy poverty as a cross-cutting issue and as a political priority. Energy poverty is mentioned repeatedly and supported by specific measures and principles of social fairness.
2025	<a href="#">Energy Poverty Definition Act (32/ME)</a>	Federal law approved in December 2025 by the Austrian Parliament. It defines the concept of energy poverty for statistical recording and for determining target groups for support measures.
Ongoing	<a href="#">Social Climate Plan</a>	Austria is developing its Social Climate Plan. The public consultation process, concluded in June 2025, involved civil society, social partners, and youth organisations.

### NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY

With the establishment of the KEA – Coordination Office for Combating Energy Poverty, Austria has created a central hub that can serve as a national observatory. The KEA is a nationwide institution within the Climate and Energy Fund and works closely with ministries, social partners, research institutions, and civil society. It is defined in the Energy Efficiency Act. Its tasks include coordinating stakeholders, developing strategies, formulating policy recommendations and monitoring tools, publishing studies and expert reports, providing information and advisory services, and engaging in public outreach and communication. Website: <https://www.kea.gv.at>

### EPAH ANTENNAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

EPAH Antenna: EPAH has partnerships with energy poverty stakeholders in all Member States. In Austria, the Antenna is the Klimabündnis Österreich – Climate Alliance Austria. Its mission is to enable and accelerate ecological transformation and establish climate justice with a commitment to tackling energy poverty in collaboration with municipalities, educational institutions, and businesses.

Website: <https://www.klimabuendnis.at>. Contact: [Ulrike.Feichtinger@klimabuendnis.at](mailto:Ulrike.Feichtinger@klimabuendnis.at). 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
<a href="#">Energie-Sozialtarif</a> (energy social tariff) <i>[from 2026]</i>	<p>The Electricity Industry Act (ElWG) (approved together with the energy poverty definition act in December 2025) established a social price for electricity, applying up to an annual consumption of 2,900 kWh. It is intended to benefit around 280,000 households, including people on minimum pensions, social assistance, and care-dependent persons.</p>
<a href="#">Sauber Heizen für Alle 2026</a> (clean heating for all by 2026) <i>[similar programs since 2024]</i>	<p>This programme provides targeted funding to low-income households that own single-family or two-family houses or terraced houses in Austria to replace fossil-fuel heating systems with climate-friendly options like heat pumps, district heating, or modern biomass systems. Eligible costs include installation, removal of old systems, and related planning, with funding up to 100% of costs within defined limits.</p>
<a href="#">WOHNSCHIRM Energie</a> (targeted energy aid) <i>[2022-2026]</i>	<p>Provides support for households that have arrears on energy bills and face disconnection due to inability to pay. Eligibility generally requires low income. A national network of advice centres supports households in applying to the programme.</p>
<a href="#">Energiesparen im Haushalt: Beratung und Gerätetausch</a> (saving energy in the home: advice and appliance replacement) <i>[2023-2025]</i>	<p>This programme by the Climate and Energy Fund helps households reduce energy costs through simple energy-saving measures and appliance upgrades. If replacement is recommended after a home consultation by an expert, up to two appliances can be exchanged free of charge. Eligibility requires proof of social support.</p>

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## NATIONAL MEASURES AND ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES

ILLUSTRATIVE PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Robin Powerhood – Eco-Social Energy Community</a>	<p>The Robin Powerhood energy community redistributes surplus electricity (e.g. from photovoltaic systems) to low-income households. This good practice combines renewable energy technology, social participation, and targeted relief for energy-poor households. It is a cooperation between private individuals, companies, social organisations, and municipalities with over 140 members across eight Austrian provinces.</p>
<a href="#">"Renovating for All" funding program in the State of Styria</a>	<p>This state-level programme complements the national-level clean heating programme, covering up to 100% of the costs for selected renovation measures (e.g., insulating exterior walls and roofs, or replacing windows and exterior doors).</p>
<a href="#">Soziale Energieberatung (social energy advice)</a>	<p>Social energy consulting is aimed at households affected by poverty and supports them in reducing energy costs and improving their quality of life through behavioural changes and small investment measures. It complements traditional energy consulting, which tends to focus on larger investments in renovation and heating replacement. Since 2022, klimaaktiv has been offering a free training series for social counsellors to become social energy advisors. The training provides basic knowledge on energy-saving measures, energy bills, support with subsidy applications, among others, to be able to advise low-income households in a low-threshold manner.</p>

## FURTHER READING

- [Factcheck Energy Poverty](#)
- [Review of the first conference of the Coordination Office for Combating Energy Poverty](#)
- [Heating or School Trip? The Many Facets of Energy Poverty and How to Tackle It – Podcast by the Austrian Energy Agency](#)
- [Indicators for measuring energy poverty 2025](#)
- [The energy austerity pitfall: Linking hidden energy poverty with self-restriction in household use in Austria](#)

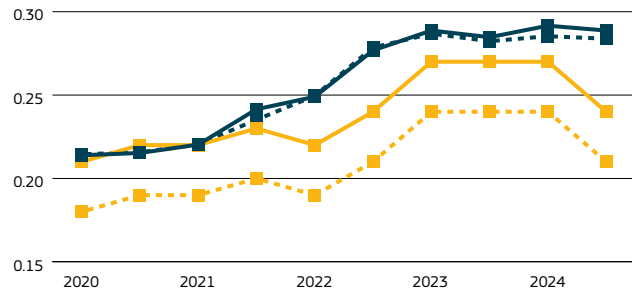
## MEMBER STATE BACKGROUND

Austria is a Central European country with a predominantly temperate continental climate. The country has a population of [9,158,750 people](#). The real GDP per capita in 2024 was [45,140 euros](#), which is above the EU-27 average value (33,650 euros). Austria has a Gini coefficient of [28.4](#) (a measure of economic inequality), which is below the EU-27 average value of 29.4.

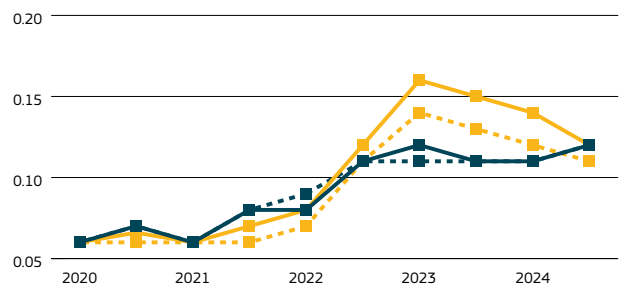
### ENERGY PRICES

—●— Austria (in EURO)    
 - - - ● - - - Austria (in PPP)    
 —■— EU-27 (in EURO)    
 - - - ■ - - - EU-27 (in PPP)

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

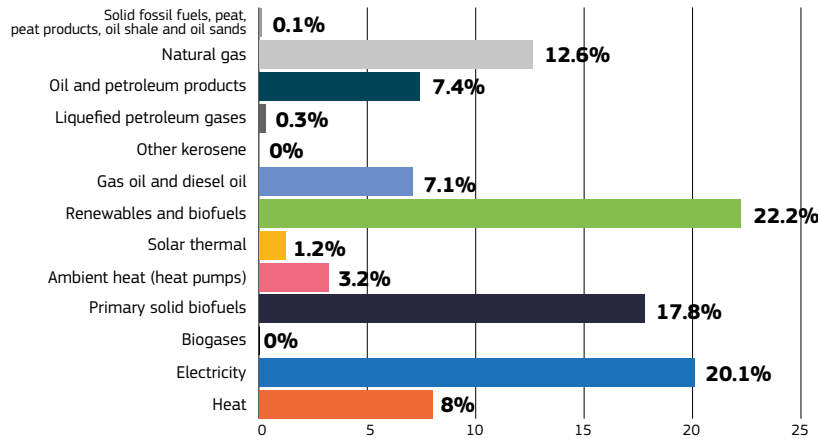


#### GAS PRICES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS

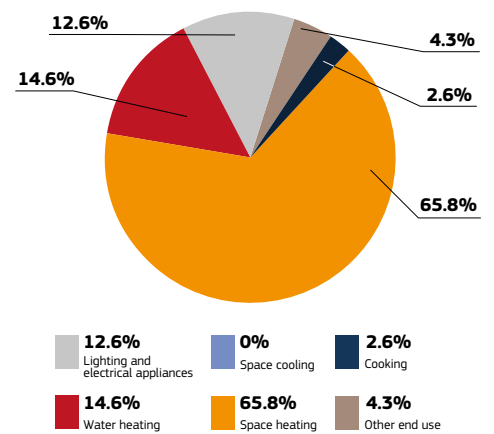


### HOUSEHOLDS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

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	25%
	Low education	12%

	Rural households	38%
	Elderly households	17%
	Young households	13%
	Single parents	3%

	Migrants	22%
	Unemployed persons	4%
	Ill-health and disabilities	31%
	Tenants	46%