

Disposable annual household income

Definition

This indicator measures the total income received by all household members from all sources: including wages, pensions, and social benefits; after deduction of taxes, social security contributions, and other mandatory payments.

Examples

A household with low disposable income may be unable to cover energy bills, invest in heating or cooling equipment, or undertake dwelling retrofitting, creating or deepening energy poverty conditions regardless of energy prices or climate exposure.

A household with low disposable income residing in an energy-efficient dwelling with no rent expenses and access to low-cost fuel may not experience energy poverty, illustrating that income alone does not determine energy poverty status without considering other dimensions.

Numbers

In 2023, the EU27 average disposable household income was 21,000 PPS per inhabitant. Luxembourg (30,100), Germany (25,800), and Austria (25,400) recorded the highest levels, while Latvia (13,300), Bulgaria (13,500), and Estonia (14,500) recorded the lowest, reflecting a more than twofold gap across Member States.

Limits

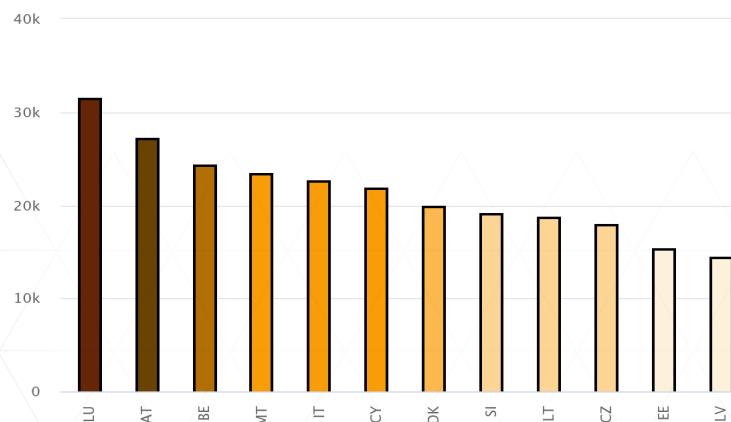
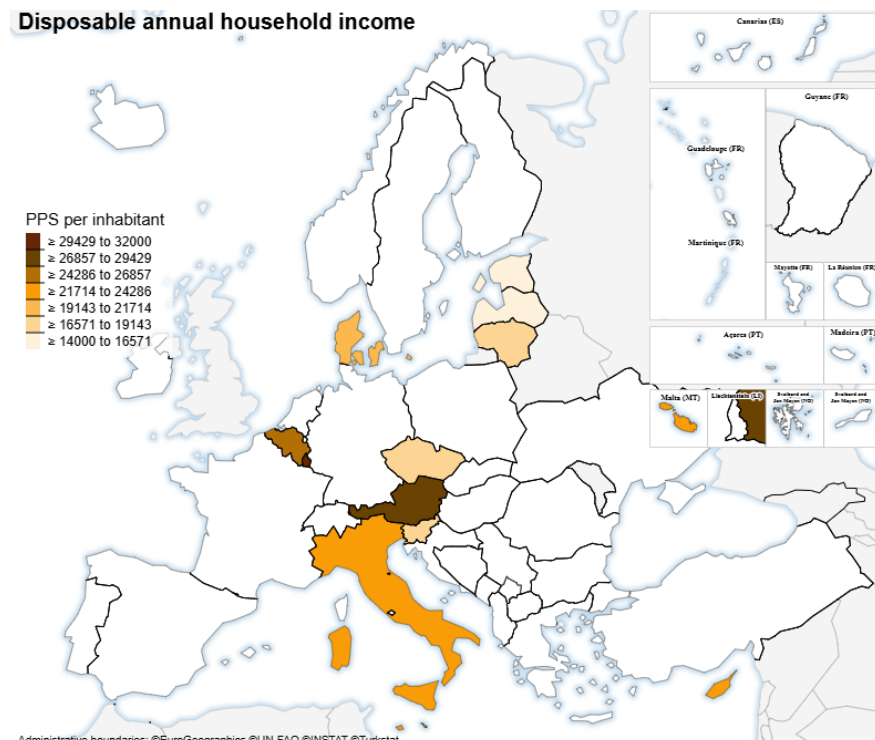
Low disposable income is one of the leading causes of energy poverty but is not sufficient on its own to identify energy poverty conditions, as households with identical incomes may face very different energy cost burdens.

This indicator does not capture energy expenditure levels, dwelling energy efficiency, or thermal comfort conditions, which are necessary to assess the full picture of energy poverty vulnerability.

It does not reflect non-monetary dimensions of energy poverty, including social, infrastructural, or behavioural factors.

Additional insights in the EPAH report: [“Energy poverty national indicators: Uncovering new possibilities for expanded knowledge”](#)

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Unit: Purchasing power standard (PPS, EU27 from 2020), per inhabitant
Source: EUROSTAT | **Data reporting period:** 2004-2024

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