

Expenditure of households by consumption purpose

A quarter of household expenditure allocated to housing

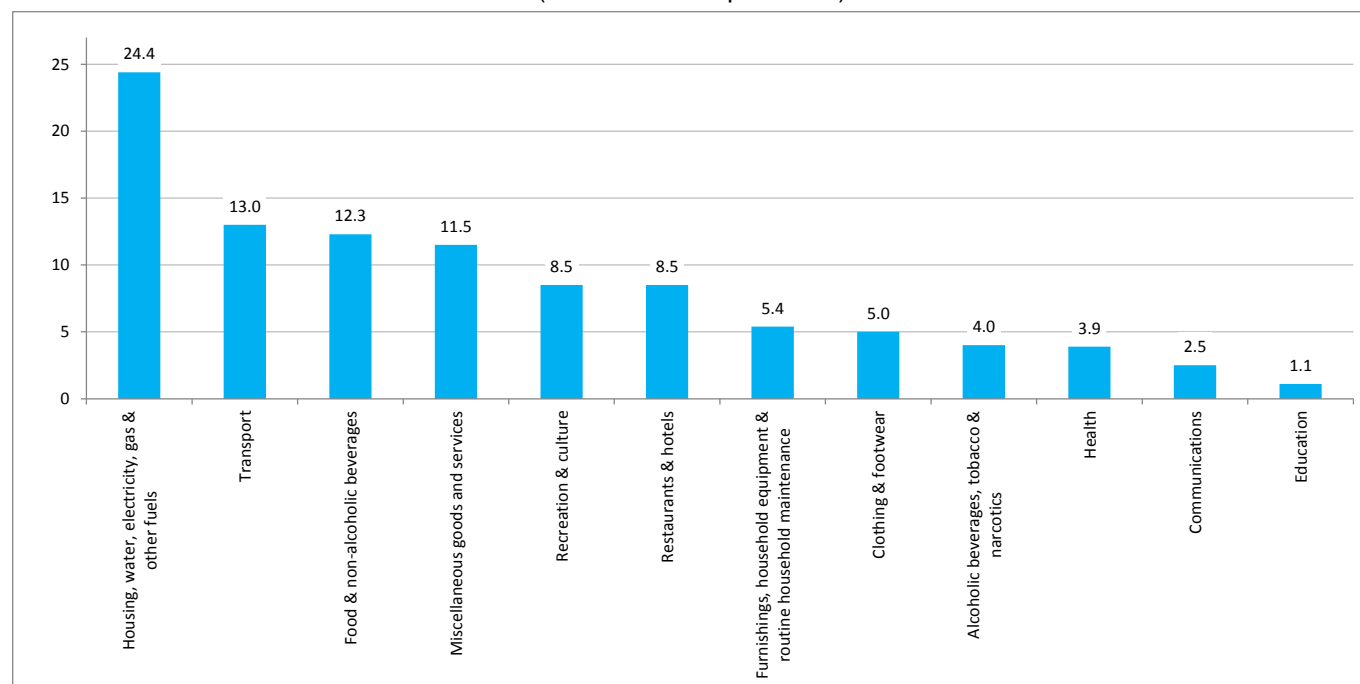
Growing weight over last ten years

In 2015, households in the **European Union** (EU) devoted nearly a quarter of their total consumption expenditure to "housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels". This represents a total spending of almost €2 000 bn (equivalent to 13.4% of EU GDP) and is by far the most significant expenditure of **EU** households. This is also the expenditure item whose share increased the most significantly over the last decade, from 22.5% of total household expenditure in 2005 to 24.4% in 2015 (or +1.9 percentage points). Similar trends can be observed in an overwhelming majority of the EU Member States, albeit to different extents.

Large shares of total household consumption expenditure were also spent on transport (13.0% of total expenditure), on food and non-alcoholic beverages (12.3%), on miscellaneous goods and services (11.5%) such as financial services, insurance and personal care, on recreation and culture as well as on restaurants and hotels (both 8.5%), while other types of expenditure were less important.

This information, based on detailed breakdowns of household final expenditure by COICOP groups, is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. While this News Release has a specific focus on housing expenditure, a more detailed picture of household final consumption expenditure by consumption propose is available in a [dedicated article](#) on the Eurostat website, complemented with an [interactive infographic](#).

Household final consumption expenditure in the EU, by broad consumption purpose, 2015
(as % of total expenditure)

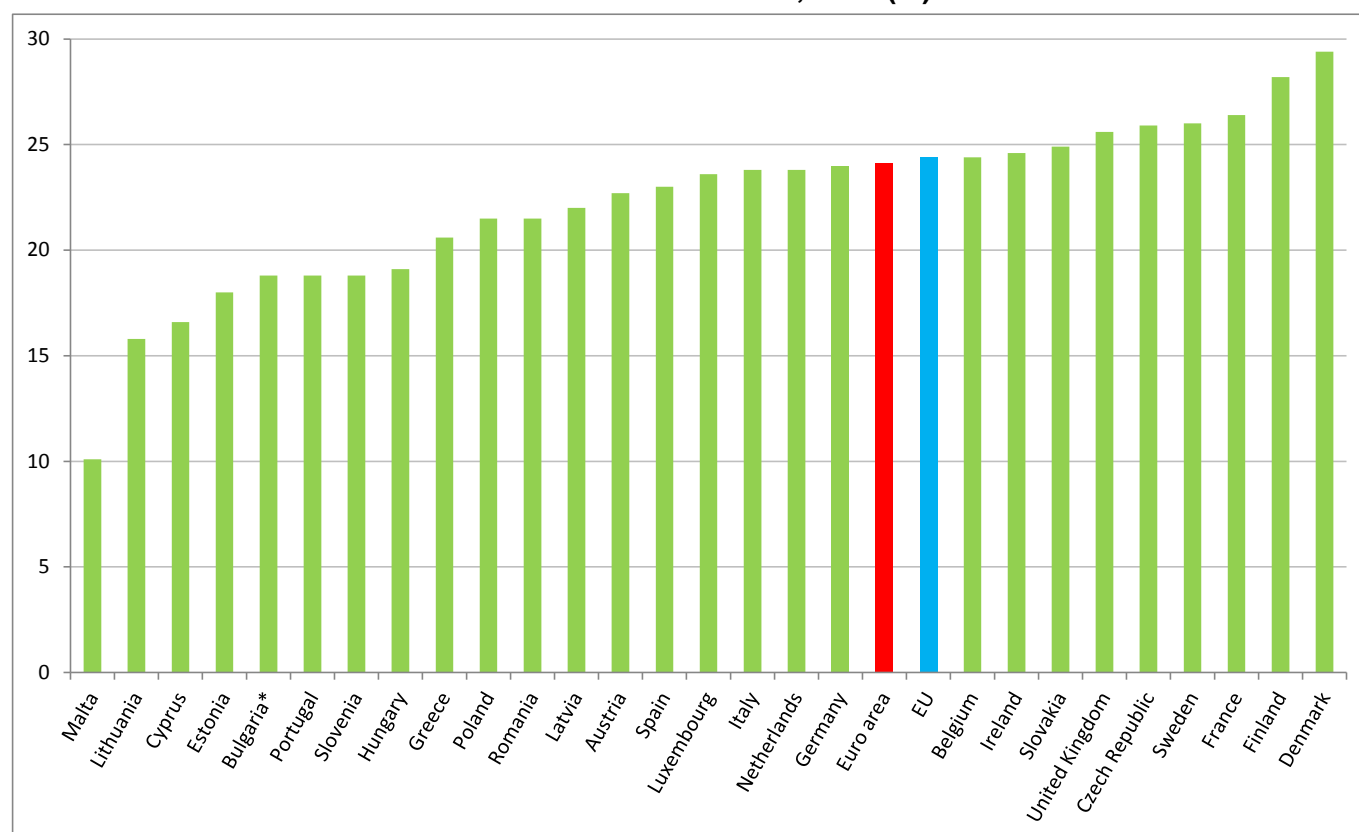


Weight of household expenditure on housing highest in Denmark and Finland, lowest in Malta

In a large majority of EU Member States, "housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels" represents the first item of household expenditure. In 2015, households devoted the largest share of their total expenditure to housing in **Denmark** (29.4%) and **Finland** (28.2%), followed by **France** (26.4%), **Sweden** (26.0%), the **Czech Republic** (25.9%) and the **United Kingdom** (25.6%).

At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest proportion of household expenditure spent on housing was registered by far in **Malta** (10.1%), ahead of **Lithuania** (15.8%), **Cyprus** (16.6%), **Estonia** (18.0%), **Bulgaria** (in 2014), **Portugal** and **Slovenia** (all 18.8%) as well as **Hungary** (19.1%).

Share of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels in total household expenditure in the EU Member States, 2015 (%)



* 2014 data instead of 2015

Croatia: data not available

Share of housing expenditure increased the most in Spain, Ireland and Portugal

Between 2005 and 2015, the share of "housing water, electricity, gas and other fuels" in total household expenditure grew in a vast majority of Member States. In particular, the most remarkable increases over this 10-year time period were recorded in **Spain** (from 17.4% of total household expenditure in 2005 to 23.0% in 2015, or a rise by 5.6 percentage points – pp), **Ireland** (+5.0 pp) and **Portugal** (+4.5 pp), followed by the **Netherlands** (+3.8 pp), **Finland** (+3.6 pp), **Italy** and **Latvia** (both +3.3 pp) as well as **Denmark** (+3.1 pp).

In contrast, the share of "housing water, electricity, gas and other fuels" in total household expenditure slightly dropped between 2005 and 2015 in **Slovakia** (from 26.2% in 2005 to 24.9% in 2015, or a decrease by 1.3 pp), **Sweden** (-1.0 pp), **Malta** (-0.9 pp), **Poland** (-0.7 pp), **Germany** (-0.4 pp) and **Slovenia** (-0.1 pp), while it remained stable in **Estonia**.

Household expenditure for housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels

	In million euros (at current prices)	Share in total expenditure (%)		Change 2015/2005 (in pp)
	2015	2005	2015	
EU	1 965 275	22.5	24.4	+1.9
Euro area	1 354 718	21.8	24.1	+2.3
Belgium	48 800	23.5	24.4	+0.9
Bulgaria*	5 423	18.1	18.8	+0.7
Czech Republic	20 809	24.4	25.9	+1.5
Denmark	36 639	26.3	29.4	+3.1
Germany	368 297	24.4	24.0	-0.4
Estonia	1 936	18.0	18.0	0.0
Ireland	20 647	19.6	24.6	+5.0
Greece	26 779	17.9	20.6	+2.7
Spain	147 519	17.4	23.0	+5.6
France	306 894	24.1	26.4	+2.3
Croatia	:	:	:	:
Italy	240 134	20.5	23.8	+3.3
Cyprus	2 241	14.2	16.6	+2.4
Latvia	3 274	18.7	22.0	+3.3
Lithuania	3 735	14.8	15.8	+1.0
Luxembourg	4 202	21.6	23.6	+2.0
Hungary	10 569	18.4	19.1	+0.7
Malta	556	11.0	10.1	-0.9
Netherlands	70 390	20.0	23.8	+3.8
Austria	41 025	21.0	22.7	+1.7
Poland	53 798	22.2	21.5	-0.7
Portugal	22 871	14.3	18.8	+4.5
Romania	20 901	20.9	21.5	+0.6
Slovenia	4 036	18.9	18.8	-0.1
Slovakia	10 557	26.2	24.9	-1.3
Finland	30 824	24.6	28.2	+3.6
Sweden	50 652	27.0	26.0	-1.0
United Kingdom	405 449	24.4	25.6	+1.2
Iceland	1 713	20.0	22.0	+2.0
Norway*	30 059	20.4	20.6	+0.2

: Data not available

* 2014 data instead of 2015

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The **euro area** consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

Methods and definitions

Data presented in this News Release come from annual national accounts, which are compiled in accordance with the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010).

Household final consumption expenditure, abbreviated as HFCE, consists of the total outlay on individual goods and services by resident households, including those sold at below-market prices. HCFE includes imputed expenditures or transactions which do not occur in monetary terms and can therefore not be measured directly.

Household consumption expenditure is classified by **consumption purpose** according to the COICOP classification (Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose) which includes up to 60 categories. Data reflect the domestic concept.

The division "**Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels**" includes expenditure related to rentals for housing, maintenance and repair of the dwelling, water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling, as well as electricity, gas and other fuels.

For more information

Eurostat website section dedicated to national accounts.


Eurostat database on national accounts.


Eurostat Statistic Explained article on household expenditure by consumption purpose.

Eurostat interactive infographic on household consumption expenditure in the EU.

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