
A HOUSEHOLD IS CLASSED AS BEING IN FUEL POVERTY IF:

- Their fuel costs are above average
- and
- their disposable income (after housing and fuel costs) is below the poverty line

AVERAGE GAP is the reduction in fuel bill that the average fuel poor household needs in order to not be classed as fuel poor.

AGGREGATE GAP is the sum of all fuel poor households’ gaps.

FUEL POVERTY IN 2018

APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 10 (10.3%) HOUSEHOLDS WERE FUEL POOR

The average gap was up from £328 in 2017 £334

The aggregate gap was down from £830 in 2017 £802m

The proportion of fuel poor households was estimated to decrease by 0.7 percentage points from 2017

Note that the proportion of households in fuel poverty is consistently between 10-12%

A HOUSEHOLD’S FUEL POVERTY STATUS DEPENDS ON THE INTERACTION OF THREE KEY DRIVERS...

Improvement was seen in ENERGY EFFICIENCY between 2017 and 2018

Prepayment price cap has contributed to the reduction of ENERGY PRICES for mainly low income households.

INCOMES generally increased at a faster rate for low income households – partly due to the National Living Wage.
ENERGY EFFICIENCY*

The majority of fuel poor households live in a Band D property

Median required fuel costs for the least efficient properties are 3 times higher than costs for the most efficient properties

Band G properties are almost 3 times more likely to be fuel poor and have 4 times larger average gap

FUEL POVERTY TARGET

The fuel poverty target is to move as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum of...

PROGRESS IN 2018

Band C or above: 12.4%
Band D or above: 69.4%
Band E or above: 92.6%

INCOME

Incomes generally rose faster for households in the lowest income deciles, partly due to the introduction of the National Living Wage in April 2016
Households that pay for their energy bills by **prepayment** are no longer the most likely to be fuel poor. The prepayment price cap contributed to this.

The **average annual domestic energy bills** for prepayment customers decreased between 2017 and 2018.

**North East** had the lowest average gap

**North West** had the highest proportion of fuel poor households

**South East** had the lowest proportion of fuel poor households

**West Midlands** had the highest average gap

Source: Fuel poverty Statistics for England, 2018

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**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

Single parent households are most likely to be fuel poor (19%) and **couples over 60** have the largest average gap (£393)

![Proportion of fuel poor](chart)

![Average gap](chart)

**TENURE**

Households living in **privately rented accommodation** are most likely to be fuel poor (17.7%) though households who **own their home** have the largest average gap (£385)

Owner occupiers that **own their home outright** are less likely to be fuel poor (7.6%) than those with a mortgage (9.1%).

The majority of fuel poor households are **owner occupied** (51.3%)

**FUEL POOR BY TENURE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY BAND**

Households where the household reference person is **unemployed** are **three times more likely** to be in fuel poverty than the national average

**EMPLOYMENT**

Households where the household reference person is **unemployed** are **three times more likely** to be in fuel poverty than the national average