Belgium
2016 Index\(^1\): 5\(^{th}\)

**Housing Costs**

- Housing cost overburden rate\(^2\):
  
  While 10.4\% of the population is overburdened by housing costs, the rate among poor households is alarming: 42.6\%.

- A large number of poor households are in arrears on their rent or mortgage repayments (12.5\%).

**Unfit Housing**

Inability to maintain adequate temperatures in housing has worsened since 2009, for poor households in particular (+3.3\%).

Despite Belgium ranking well with regard to overcrowding (1st) and severe housing deprivation (3rd), the inequality that exists within the Belgian population is alarming:

- Poor households are 12 times more likely to face severe housing deprivation (3.8\%) than non-poor households (0.3\%).

- Non-EU citizens are 5 times more likely to be overburdened by housing costs (45.8\%) than Belgian citizens (8.7\%), and 17 times more likely to live in overcrowded conditions (17.3\%) than Belgian citizens (1\%).

**Context**

A price-to-income ratio that has been climbing continually since the 2008 financial crisis, in 2014 = 138.1.

According to RentsWatch\(^3\), Brussels is the 36th most expensive city in Europe. Average cost for new rental contracts in the last 6 months: €11.9/m\(^2\).

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\(^1\) See FEANTSA and the Foundation Abbé Pierre.


\(^3\) People spending more than 40% of their disposable income on housing.

http://www.rentswatch.com