ITALY
2016 Index\(^1\): \textbf{23rd}

### HOUSING COSTS

\textbf{Housing cost overburden rate\(^2\):}

- Share of the population overburdened by housing costs is fairly average compared to the rest of Europe.
- \textbf{4.9\%} of the population are in rent or mortgage arrears (\textbf{10.3\% of poor households}).

### UNFIT HOUSING

\textbf{9.5\%} of the Italian population is living in severe housing deprivation, one of the highest rates in Europe.

A large proportion of the population (\textbf{18\%}) is unable to maintain adequate temperatures in the home (+\textbf{7.2 percentage points} between 2009 and 2014), and this is particularly true of poor households (\textbf{38.3\%}, \textbf{+12 percentage points} between 2009 and 2014).

High rate of overcrowding: \textbf{27.2\%} of the total population. Non-EU citizens are \textbf{2.5 times} more likely (\textbf{56.1\%}) to live in overcrowded conditions than Italian citizens (\textbf{22.6\%}).

\textbf{25\%} of the population and \textbf{32.8\%} of poor households are living in damp conditions.

### CONTEXT

The cost of housing increased faster than incomes between 2004 and 2009, when it started falling to almost reach the long-term trend in 2015 (101.7).

Italy was not officially subject to a Troika programme and does not have a Memorandum of Understanding, but the country is nonetheless under strong pressure to put in place austerity measures.

According to RentsWatch\(^5\), \textbf{Rome is the 19th most expensive city in Europe.}
Average cost for new rental contracts in the last 6 months: €\textbf{14/m\textsuperscript{2}}. Milan is ranked \textbf{16th} (€\textbf{14.8}).

During the 2011 Eurostat census, Italy had more than \textbf{7 million unoccupied conventional dwellings} (secondary residences and vacant housing), i.e. \textbf{22.7\%} of the total number of conventional dwellings.

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3. People spending more than 40\% of their disposable income on housing.
4. For example, the European Commission, in its 2016 Country-specific Recommendations called on Italy to expedite the reduction of non-performing loans, which could potentially lead to an increase in housing exclusion.
5. The increase of that percentage since 2009 is, in the calculations of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, larger than the 7.8\% mentioned (more like 22\%), see [http://www.clo.nl/nl2174](http://www.clo.nl/nl2174).
6. [http://www.rentswatch.com](http://www.rentswatch.com)