

HH070: Total housing cost [*Total housing cost (including electricity, water, gas and heating)*]

Domain/Area	Housing/ Housing cost
Transmission type	Regular
Reference period	Current
Unit	Household
Mode of collection	Household respondent
Values	1 - 999999.99 Housing cost
Flags	1 Filled -1 Missing

Description

The term housing cost refers to monthly costs connected with the household's right to live in the accommodation. The costs of utilities (water, electricity, gas and heating) resulting from the actual use of the accommodation are also included.

Only housing costs that are actually paid are taken into account.

Components that must be included in housing costs:

Owners: Mortgage interest payments¹ (net of any tax relief), gross of housing benefits (i.e. housing benefits should not be deducted from the total housing cost), structural insurance, mandatory services and charges (sewage removal, refuse removal, etc.), regular maintenance and repairs², taxes, and the cost of utilities (water, electricity, gas and heating).

Tenants (at market price): Rental payments, gross of housing benefits (i.e. housing benefits should not be deducted from the total housing cost), structural insurance (if paid by the tenants), services and charges (sewage removal, refuse removal, etc.) (if paid by the tenants), taxes on dwelling (if applicable), regular maintenance and repairs¹ and the cost of utilities (water, electricity, gas and heating).

Tenants (at reduced price): Rental payments, gross of housing benefits (i.e. housing benefits should not be deducted from the total housing cost), structural insurance (if paid by the tenants), services and charges (sewage removal, refuse removal, etc.) (if paid by the tenants), taxes on dwelling (if applicable), regular maintenance and repairs¹ and the cost of utilities (water, electricity, gas and heating).

Rent free: gross of housing benefits (i.e. housing benefits should not be deducted from the total housing cost), structural insurance (if paid by the rent-free tenant), services and charges (sewage removal, refuse removal, etc.) (if paid by the rent-free tenant), taxes on dwelling (if applicable), regular maintenance and repairs¹ and the cost of utilities (water, electricity, gas and heating).

For example, in the case of tenants at reduced price, if:

- The household has to pay for the charges (electricity, water, etc): 300 €

¹ Included only in case of mortgage taken for the purpose of buying the main dwelling

² Only the regular maintenance and repairs should be included. According to the COICOP/HBS: 'regular maintenance or repairs of the dwelling are distinguished by two features: first, they are activities that have to be undertaken regularly in order to maintain the dwelling in good working order; second, they do not change the dwelling's performance, capacity or expected service life.'

- The owner requires a rent for the dwelling: 700 €
- The household pays the owner (from their own resources): 500 €
- The housing allowances are paid directly to the owner or through the household: 200 €

then:

$$HH060 = 700 \text{ € } (= 500 \text{ € } + 200 \text{ €})$$

$$HH070 = 1000 \text{ € } (= 500 \text{ € } + 200 \text{ € } + 300 \text{ €})$$

The total housing cost (HH070) should be greater than the current rent related to the occupied dwelling (HH060).

It is necessary to impute a value of housing cost items that are not included in the rent but which are paid, such as the cost of the utilities, sewage removal, structural insurance, etc. This imputation may be possible using a cell average from an external source, such as HBS.

It is necessary to spread over the 12 months of the year, those expenses that are seasonal (for example 'heating') or those for which the payment is different for different months of the year.

See EU-SILC DOC 105 (How to separate interest mortgage from capital)