Report on energy hardship measures

Year ended June 2024

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

Hīkina Whakatutuki – Lifting to make successful

MBIE develops and delivers policy, services, advice and regulation to support economic growth and the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

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Key insights

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) monitors five measures of energy hardship. These show that in the year ended June 2024:

- **6.7 per cent (or 132,000) of households reported that they could not afford to keep their homes adequately warm in the previous 12 months**
  This is down 0.9 percentage points on the year ended June 2019[1], but this change is not statistically significant[2]
- **6.3 per cent (or 126,000) of households put up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down in the previous 12 months**
  This is down 1.3 percentage points on the year ended June 2019, and this change is statistically significant
- **6.0 per cent (or 118,000) of households reported paying utility bills late more than once in the previous 12 months**
  This is up 0.4 percentage points on the year ended June 2019 and is not a statistically significant change. This is the only measure to show an increase over this period
- **5.2 per cent (or 102,000) of households reported a major problem with heating and/or keeping their accommodation warm in winter**
  This is the largest improvement, down 3.2 percentage points on the year ended June 2019, and is a statistically significant change
- **3.7 per cent (or 74,000) of households reported a major problem with damp and/or mould in their accommodation**
  This is down 1.6 percentage points on the year ended June 2019 and is a statistically significant change.

There is a generally positive trend across the five measures between the year ended June 2019 and 2024, with statistically significant improvements in three of the five measures

At both the national level and across most groups, housing-related indicators—such as major issues with heating and damp or mould—are showing improvement.

Analysing these measures across groups shows clear differences and varying rates of improvements:

- Some measures of energy hardship have improved for Māori and Pacific peoples.
- Renters are more likely to experience energy hardship than non-renters but have seen greater improvements in these measures over time than non-renters.
- Low-income households and households in material hardships are more likely to experience measures of hardship.
- Household composition influences energy wellbeing with one parent families showing relatively higher rates of energy hardship.

While increases have been observed in some of the measures since the year ended June 2021, a longer period and further analysis is required to determine if these represent an ongoing trend.

[1] The 2019 year has been chosen for data availability reasons. Further explanation can be found on page 8

[2] Statistical significance means the observed change exceeds the expected sampling error, indicating it is likely genuine rather than due to random variation (such as changes to the survey sample). For more information on our approach to statistical significance testing, see How we look at changes over time.

Purpose

This report provides data and insights into how many New Zealanders may be experiencing energy hardship. This helps to ensure policy interventions and programmes are targeting groups that are most in need. Using a suite of measures, it allows for tracking of levels of energy hardship over time to monitor the effectiveness of such policies and programmes.

This is the second in a series of reports and covers data from Stats NZ's Household Economic Survey from **1 July 2012 to 30 June 2024**.

Data behind this report

The report provides commentary and insights on the measures. The Excel file accompanying this report has the underlying data, as well as a guide to using the data.

Data that was published in our previous report has been revised as per Stats NZ's revisions process for HES data. For more information see Annex Two.

Background

In June 2022, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) released its definitions of energy wellbeing and energy hardship, and an associated framework. Prior to this there was no nationally accepted definition or method of measuring energy hardship for New Zealand. For more information, see https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-hardship/defining-energy-hardship.

This was followed in June 2023 with the first release of a set of measures for monitoring levels of energy hardship in New Zealand over time.

A definition and framework of energy wellbeing

We define **energy wellbeing** as when individuals, households and whānau are able to obtain and afford adequate energy services to support their wellbeing in their home or kāinga.

Energy hardship is defined as the opposite of energy wellbeing. That is, it occurs when individuals, households and whānau are not able to obtain adequate energy services to support their wellbeing in their home or kāinga.

Our definition is supported by a conceptual framework, presenting the range of factors that can interact and affect energy wellbeing or hardship. People and their dwelling are at the centre of the framework.

Figure 1 is a visual representation of the interaction between these various factors: household resources, dwelling appliances, energy supply, environment, service literacy, dwelling characteristics, household circumstances and practices, and energy prices.

Figure 1 Framework for energy wellbeing

Our approach to measuring energy hardship

There is no single measure for energy hardship as there are multiple dimensions and experiences of energy hardship. As a result, we use a suite of measures to monitor levels of energy hardship over time.

Our measures

We developed a suite of measures using data from material wellbeing questions in Stats NZ's Household Economic Survey (HES). More information on the data used is in Annex One.

Our 5 measures of energy hardship are:

- **Could not pay electricity, gas rates, or water bills on time more than once in the last 12 months.**
- **Cannot afford to keep dwelling adequately warm.**
- **Put up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down.**
- **Dampness and/or mould a major problem.**
- **Trouble heating accommodation and or/keeping it warm in winter.**

Material wellbeing questions in the HES include a range of response options such as if an individual/household has put up with something "*not at all*", "*a little*", or "*a lot*". To align with child poverty measurement, we consider the most extreme response for our measures of energy hardship (e.g., "*a lot*" or a "*major problem*").

Material wellbeing questions in the HES are subjective, meaning that they are based on people's own reports of their experiences or situation. While they can be influenced by people's expectations, perceived experiences, and norms, they provide insight into lived experiences that cannot be captured by only looking at incomes or energy costs.

Scope of these measures

Consistent with our definition and framework for energy hardship, fuel used for transport is excluded from our measures. Any trade-off or rationing behaviour households might have, such as the trade-off between fuel for transport and heating their homes adequately, might not be reflected in the data.

How do we analyse these measures?

We focus on proportions over counts

We look at both the **number** and **proportion** of households experiencing these measures of energy hardship. However, when looking at how these measures are changing over time, we focus primarily on the **proportion** of households.

This is because tracking the number of households experiencing these measures over time is challenging as there are factors that are difficult to control for. This includes population growth (which increases the total number of households) and changes in average household size.

We look at the number of households for the most recent year of HES data to provide a snapshot and better understand the potential scale.

We look at changes over time

The HES collects data from a sample rather than surveying every individual and household in New Zealand. As the sample changes over time, some variation in the results is expected.

When looking at changes over time, we need to understand which differences are due to real-world effects versus those due to sampling. To do this, we compare the observed change in a measure with the sampling error associated with this change. If the change is greater than the sampling error, it is considered 'statistically significant'—meaning it is unlikely to have occurred by chance. We use a 95 per cent confidence level for this test.

Statistically significant changes tend to be observed over longer time periods than year-on-year. This is because a long period reduces the impact of short-term fluctuations and makes underlying trends easier to observe.

In this report we use the year ended June 2019 as our point of comparison. We have chosen this year as:

- It was the first year of the increased sample size for the HES material wellbeing questions to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018, leading to lower sampling errors for estimates.
- It was the first year that data was collected for the 'cannot afford to keep dwelling adequately warm' measure.
- It gives a snapshot of things before the impacts of COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic not only disrupted data collection for the HES but also led to some households receiving additional income support and assistance with living expenses.

We also looked at year-on-year comparisons (year ended June 2024 compared to year ended June 2023) for the national level measures, but there were no statistically significant changes.

We investigate the measures for different groups

For our measures, we cross-tabulate data to analyse relationships between two or more variables. For example, looking at how measures of energy hardship differ between households that own and do not own the dwelling that they live in.

This allows us to better understand factors that could be contributing to households being in energy hardship as well as understanding the rates of prevalence in different groups.

We have not analysed data broken down by region. This is because for some of our measures, regional breakdowns may lead to higher sampling errors and less dependable results.

How certain are we of the results?

As not every individual and household in New Zealand is surveyed as part of the HES, we get an estimate rather than the true value.

These estimates are subject to uncertainty, and this needs to be considered when analysing and interpreting changes in the HES data. To address this, a confidence interval is created around an estimate with a lower and upper bound. This tells us the range of values that we believe contains the true value for the whole population. The narrower a confidence interval is, the more confident we are that we are close to the true value. For our measures of energy hardship, we use a 95 per cent confidence interval. This is presented visually by using error bars in the charts in this report.

In Budget 2018, Stats NZ received funding for improving the HES to meet the requirements of the Child Poverty Reduction Act. Key changes included an increase in the sample size for the HES material wellbeing questions from about 3,000 to 3,500 households to an achieved sample of 20,000 households and modifying the survey design to better represent low-income households.[3] These

[3] More information can be found here: https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/expanding-the-household-economic-survey-to-obtain-good-measures-of-child-poverty

improvements have reduced sampling errors for the material wellbeing questions, which are used in official child poverty measurement and our measures of energy hardship.

Revisions to numbers in the previous report

Some results from the previous *Report on energy hardship measures – year ended June 2022* have been revised[4]. This is part of Stats NZ's revisions processes for the HES data. HES relies on several inputs, including population estimates and administrative data. Updates to these can lead to revisions in previously published HES data. More information on the revisions process for the HES is on the Stats NZ website.[5]

Other data, research, and reporting on energy hardship and related topics

This report is one part in a wider landscape of research and measures working to understand how various aspects of energy hardship are affecting New Zealanders.

Other relevant resources in this space include:

- **Electricity Authority Retail Data Monitoring:** The Electricity Authority has introduced mandatory retailer reporting of domestic and small business customer data to increase transparency and accountability in New Zealand's retail electricity market. From December 2025 they will begin publishing aggregated retail data and insights on their website. This will include information on disconnections for postpay and prepay accounts.
- **Stats NZ reporting:** Stats NZ regularly releases reports that are relevant to energy hardship. These include reports on housing, income and energy use more generally.
- **Research reports:** Energy hardship is a multifaceted issue and there are many relevant publications and surveys from research institutions, universities, government agencies, consumer advocates and others that explore various aspects of energy hardship or evaluate policies and programmes that are supporting those in energy hardship.

[4] https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/measures-of-energy-hardship-june-year-2022-report.pdf
[5] https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/applying-the-stats-nz-revisions-policy-to-outputs-from-the-household-economic-survey/

Three of the five measures have shown statistically significant improvements since 2019

In the year ended June 2024:

- 6.7 per cent (or 132,000) of households reported that they could not afford to keep their homes adequately warm in the previous 12 months.
- 6.3 per cent (or 126,000) of households put up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down in the previous 12 months.
- 6.0 per cent (or 118,000) of households reported paying utility bills late more than once in the previous 12 months.
- 5.2 per cent (or 102,000) of households reported a major problem with heating and/or keeping their accommodation warm in winter.
- 3.7 per cent (or 74,000) of households reported a major problem with damp and/or mould in their accommodation.

Figure 2 shows the proportion of households who experienced each of the five measures of energy hardship in the year ended June 2024.

Figure 2 Proportion of households experiencing energy hardship measures, HES year ended June 2024

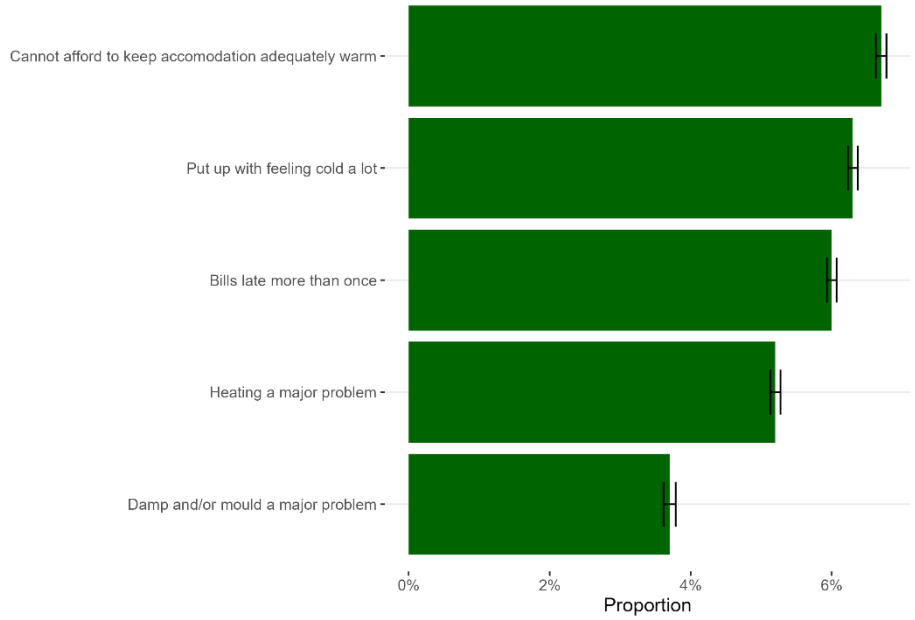
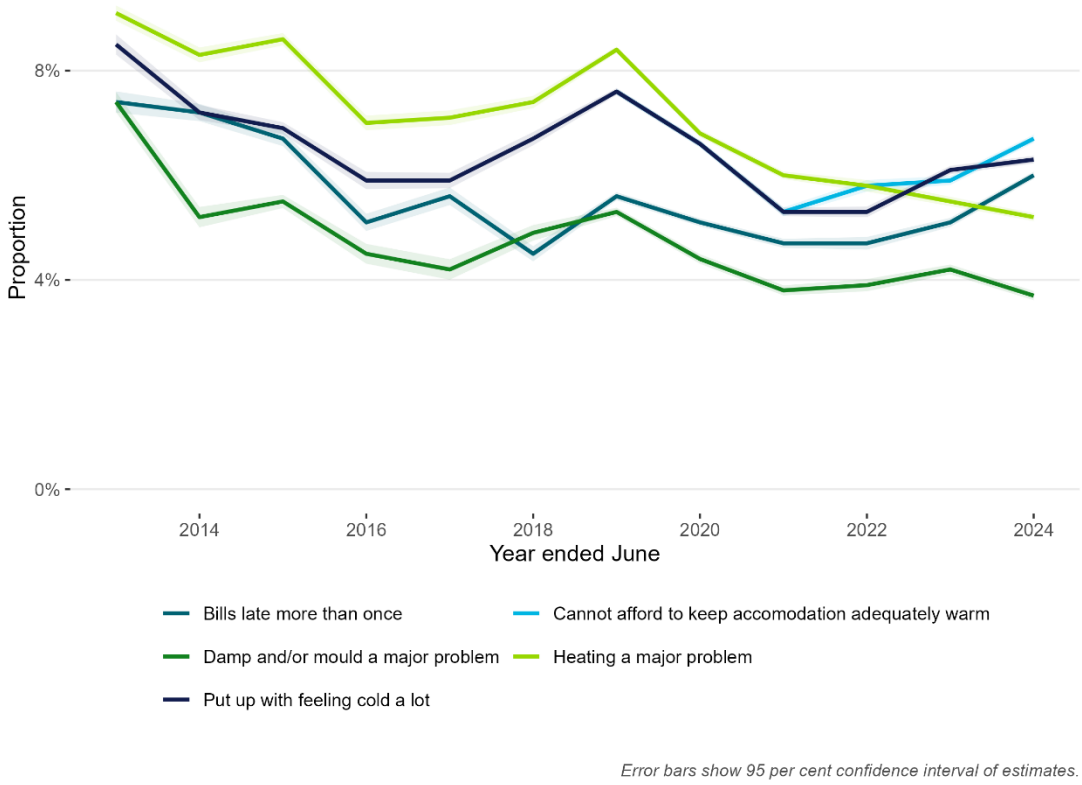


Figure 3 shows the proportion of households experiencing our five energy hardship measures over time. Compared to the year ended June 2019, three of our measures have shown statistically significant decreases:

- Households putting up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down, down 1.3 percentage points.
- Households reporting a major problem with heating their accommodation, down 3.2 percentage points.
- Households reporting a major problem with damp and/or mould in their accommodation, down 1.6 percentage points.

Since the year ended June 2019, the proportion of households that cannot afford to keep their accommodation adequately warm has fallen 0.9 percentage points and the proportion of households reporting paying their utilities bills late more than once has increased 0.4 percentage points. However, these differences are not statistically significant over this period.

Figure 3 Proportion of households experiencing energy hardship measures, HES year ended June 2013 to June 2024



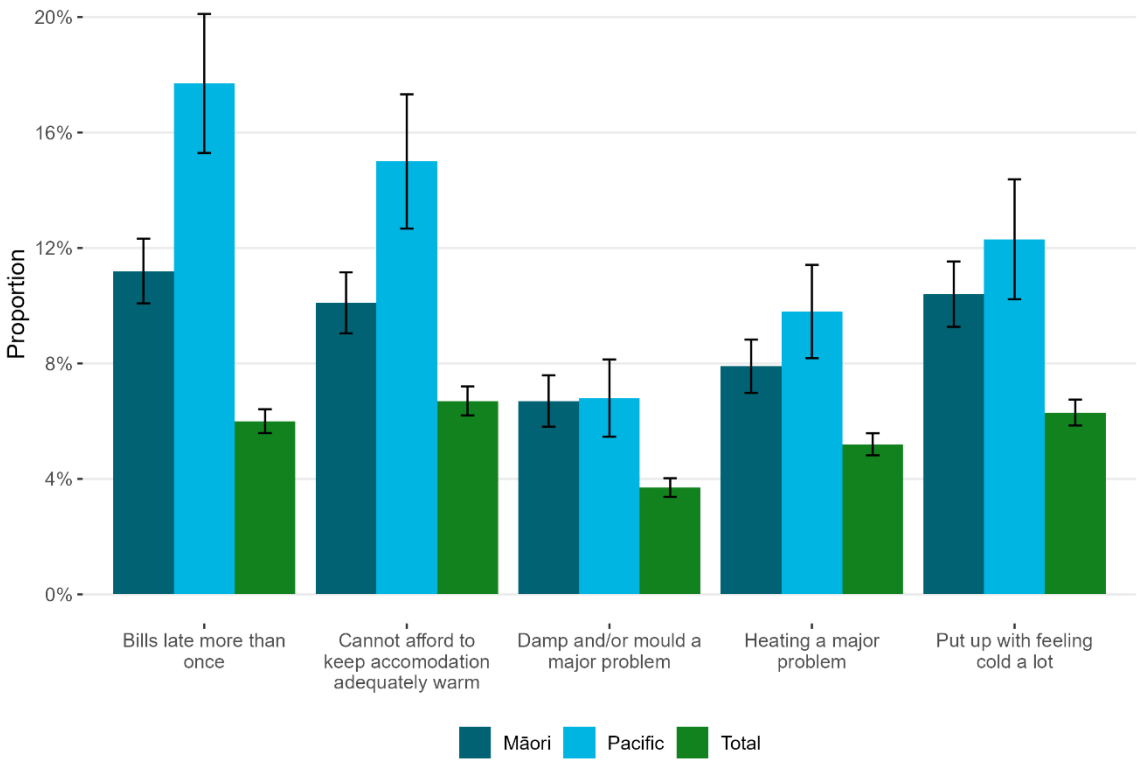
Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

While three of our measures show statistically significant decreases from the year ended June 2019, from the year ended June 2021 some of the measures have shown increases. As Figure 3 shows, relative to the year ended June 2021, the proportion of households that could not afford to keep their dwelling adequately warm increased from 5.3 to 6.7 per cent. The proportion of households that reported paying their utilities bills late more than one in the previous year increased from 4.7 to 6.0 per cent. These increases are both statistically significant over this period. The proportion of households that that reported putting up with feeling cold a lot also increased over this time, but it was not statistically significant. Future data points will indicate whether these changes represent an ongoing trend.

Some measures of energy hardship have improved for Māori and Pacific peoples

Figure 4 shows the proportion of households experiencing the measures of energy hardship by one selected household ethnicities[6]. Households with Māori and Pacific peoples are between two to three times more likely than the general population to experience measures of energy hardship.

Figure 4 Energy hardship measures by selected household ethnicities, HES year ended June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

Despite relatively higher rates than the general population, households with Māori and Pacific peoples have both seen statistically significant improvements in housing-related measures since the year ended June 2019. Proportionally fewer Pacific households are reporting major problems with damp and/or mould (down from 14.9 per cent to 6.8 per cent), putting up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down (down from 19.7 per cent to 12.3 per cent), and having a major problem with heating (down from 20.9 per cent to 9.8 per cent). For Māori households, the proportion reporting major problems with damp and/or mould and heating have also fallen from 10.4 per cent to 6.7 per cent and 15.0 per cent to 7.9 per cent, respectively.

[6] Data on ethnicity is collected as part of the Household Economic Survey (HES). Individuals can identify with more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

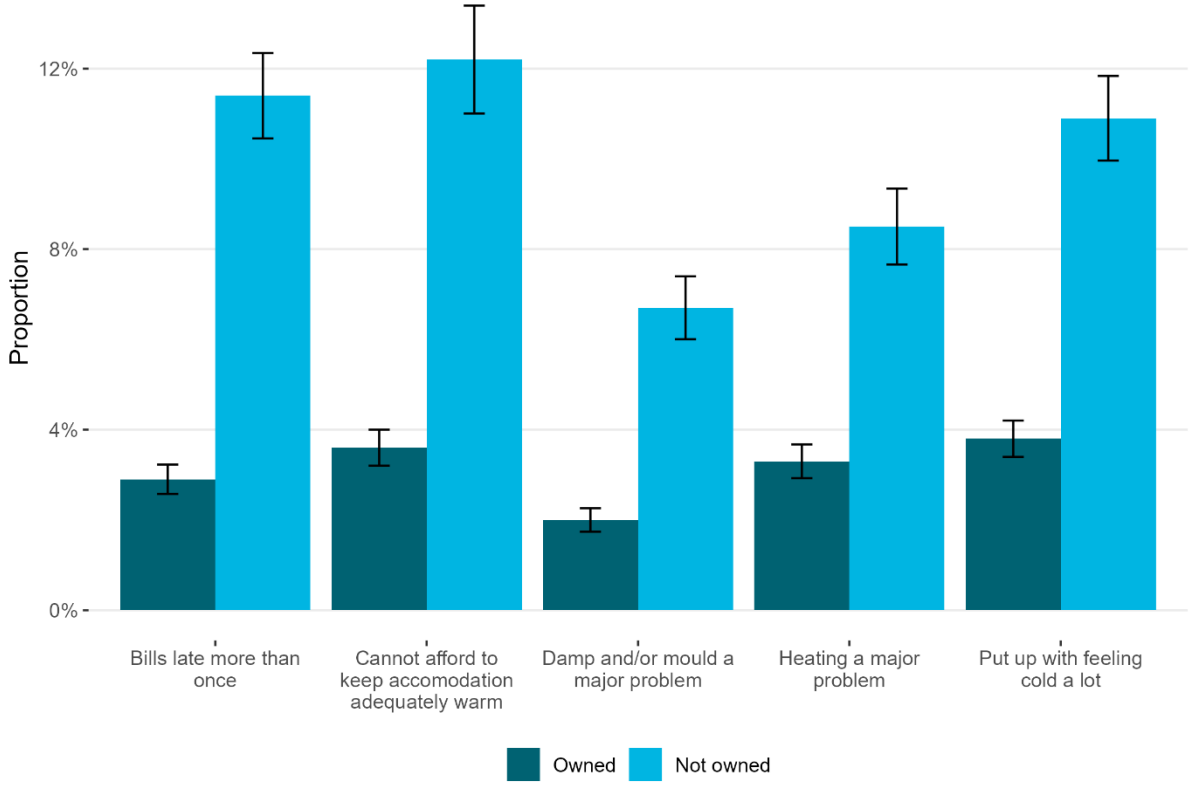
Figure 5 Selected energy hardship measures by selected ethnicities, HES years ended June 2013 to June 2024

Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

Renters experience more energy hardship, but their measures have improved more than non-renters

Figure 6 shows the proportion of households experiencing the measures of energy hardship by tenure. In the year ended June 2024, renters were three to four times more likely to experience energy hardship than owner-occupiers. Homeowners have greater incentives as well as autonomy to improve the quality of their home, while renters may have less control over housing quality and appliance efficiency. This is seen in the data, with despite there being an overall decrease in measures, the gap between owner-occupiers and renters has remained significant.

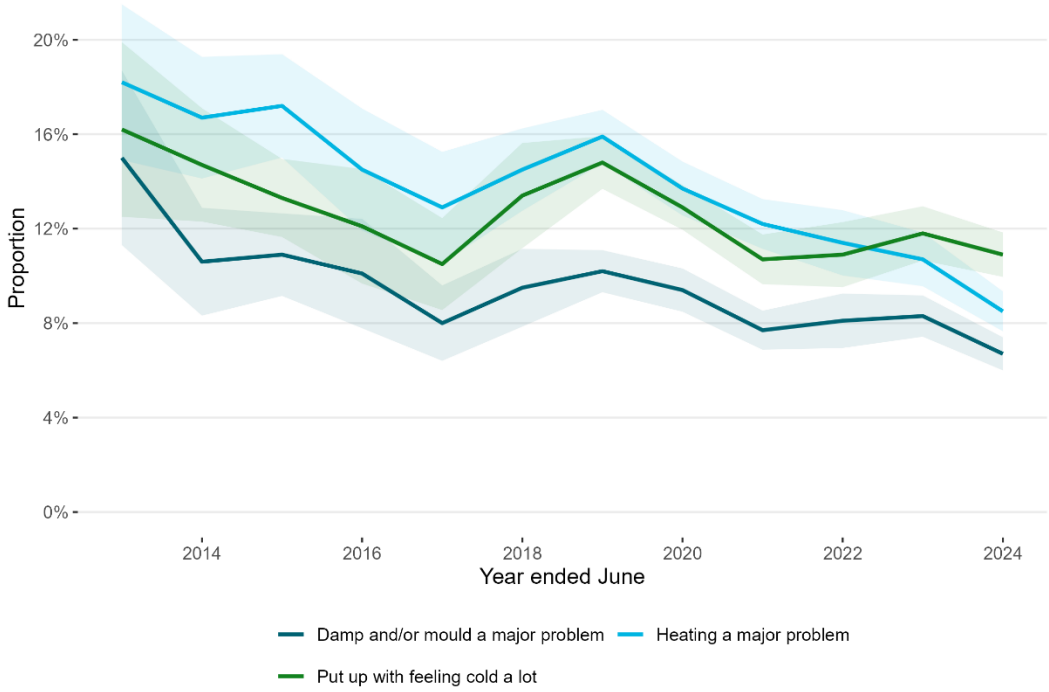
Figure 6 Energy hardship measures by tenure, HES years ended June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

Figure 7 shows the trend of the proportion of renters experiencing energy hardship by selected measures over time. A statistically significant reduction between 2019 and 2024 was observed in renters reporting major problems with dampness and/or mould and heating their accommodation, as well as putting up with feeling cold a lot.

Figure 7 Selected energy hardship measures for households that rent, HES years ended June 2013 to June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

There have been larger percentage point decreases in these measures for renters compared to owner-occupiers between the year ended June 2019 and 2024:

- The number of households reporting damp and/or mould a major problem dropped from 10.2 per cent to 6.7 per cent for renters compared to 2.5 per cent to 2 per cent for homeowners.
- The number of households reporting heating a major problem dropped from 15.9 per cent to 8.5 per cent for renters compared to 4 per cent to 3.3 per cent for homeowners.
- The number of households putting up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down drops from 14.8 per cent to 10.9 per cent for renters compared to an increase from 3.5 per cent to 3.8 per cent for homeowners.

Crowded households are more likely to experience measures of energy hardship than non-crowded households[7]. In the year ended June 2024, 12.1 per cent of crowded households put up with feeling cold a lot which is two times higher than households with one or more bedrooms to spare. The proportion of crowded households that were unable to keep afford to keep accommodation adequately warm in the same year was 15.6 per cent, three times higher than households with one more rooms to spare. It is important to note that Stats NZ's measure of household crowding only captures structural crowding, which compares the number of people in the household to the number of rooms in the dwelling. It is unlikely to capture functional crowding behaviours, such as multiple occupants sharing a single room to keep heating costs down.

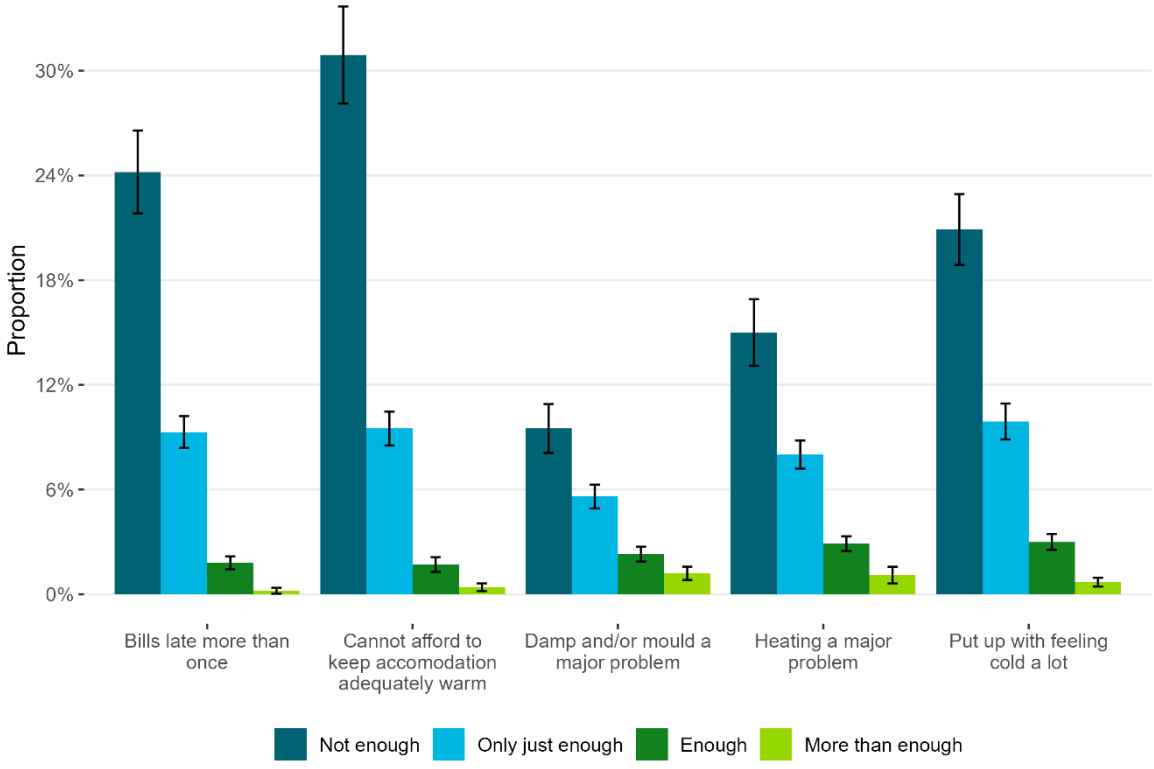
[7] Crowding refers to when the dwelling is too small for the number of people living in it. Household crowding is derived by comparing the number of bedrooms in the dwelling to the number of bedrooms that the occupants residing in it need.

Low-income households are more likely to experience measures of energy hardship

Income is a key determinant of a household's ability to afford adequate housing and sufficient energy to support their wellbeing. Income adequacy is a self-assessed measure where households are asked whether they think that they have enough income to cover their everyday needs (such as accommodation and food). Figure 8 shows the proportion of households experiencing the measures of energy hardship by income adequacy.

In the year ended June 2024, households that did not think they had enough income to meet their everyday needs were three to five times more likely to report experiencing energy hardship than the average household. Almost a third of households with not enough income reported that they could not afford to keep their accommodation adequately warm, and just under a quarter of households with not enough income reported that they paid their utilities bill late more than once in the previous 12 months.

Figure 8 Energy hardship measures by income adequacy, HES year ended June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

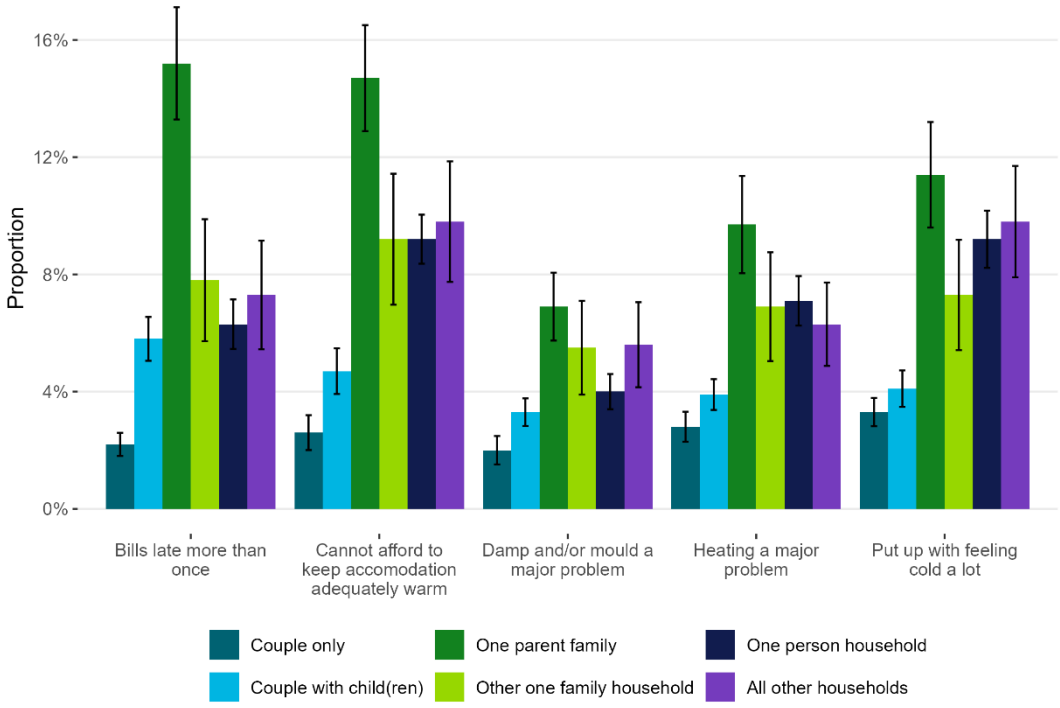
Except for households that reported their income was more than adequate, all other groups have had statistically significant declines — since the year ended June 2019 — in reporting a major problem with heating and/or keeping their accommodation warm.

Household composition influences energy wellbeing

Composition refers to the make-up of a household or whānau, and includes the number of people, their ages, and their health and wellbeing. These factors influence a household's energy needs — larger households are likely to consume more energy, different ages have varying energy requirements, and households where members spend more time at home (such as those working remotely or caring for children) will generally have higher energy needs.

Composition also influences a household's resources, with households with only one income earner likely to have less income than those with multiple earners. Figure 9 shows that one parent families are more likely to experience measures of energy hardship than other household compositions. Since the year ended June 2019, statistically significant reductions have been seen for four of these groups (couples with children, one parent families, one person households, and all other households) reporting major problems with heating their accommodation.

Figure 9 Energy hardship measures by household composition, HES year ended June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

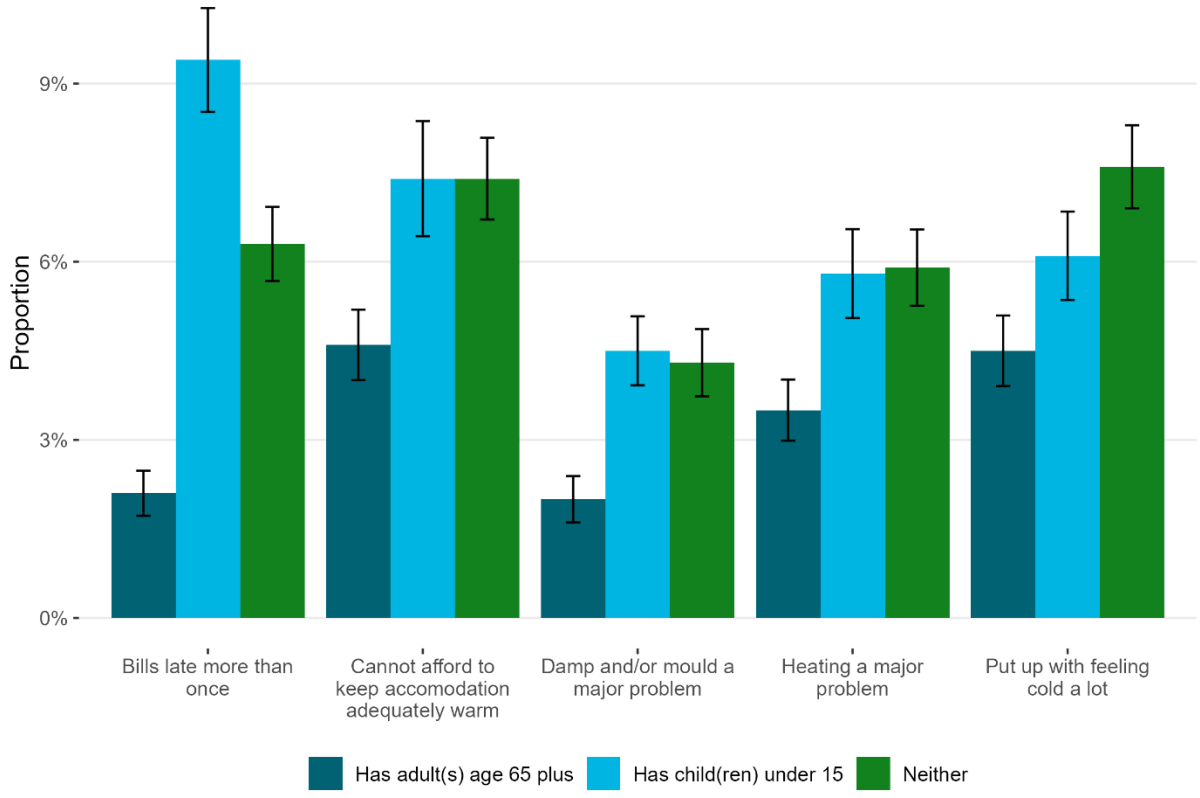
In the year ended June 2024, 15.2 per cent of one parent households reported that they were late paying their utilities bills more than once in the previous 12 months. Since the year ended June 2013 (the earliest point that we have data for), the proportion of households paying their utilities bills late more than once has been relatively higher for one parent families than other household compositions and much higher than the national average.

Figure 10 shows the proportion of households experiencing the measures of energy hardship for selected household age profiles[8]. Since the year ended June 2019, statistically significant reductions have been seen in households with at least one child under 15 reporting major problems with

[8] These groups are not mutually exclusive.

damp/or mould (down from 6.6 to 4.5 per cent) and heating their accommodation (down from 10.4 to 5.8 per cent).

Figure 10 Energy hardship measures for selected household age profiles, HES year ended June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

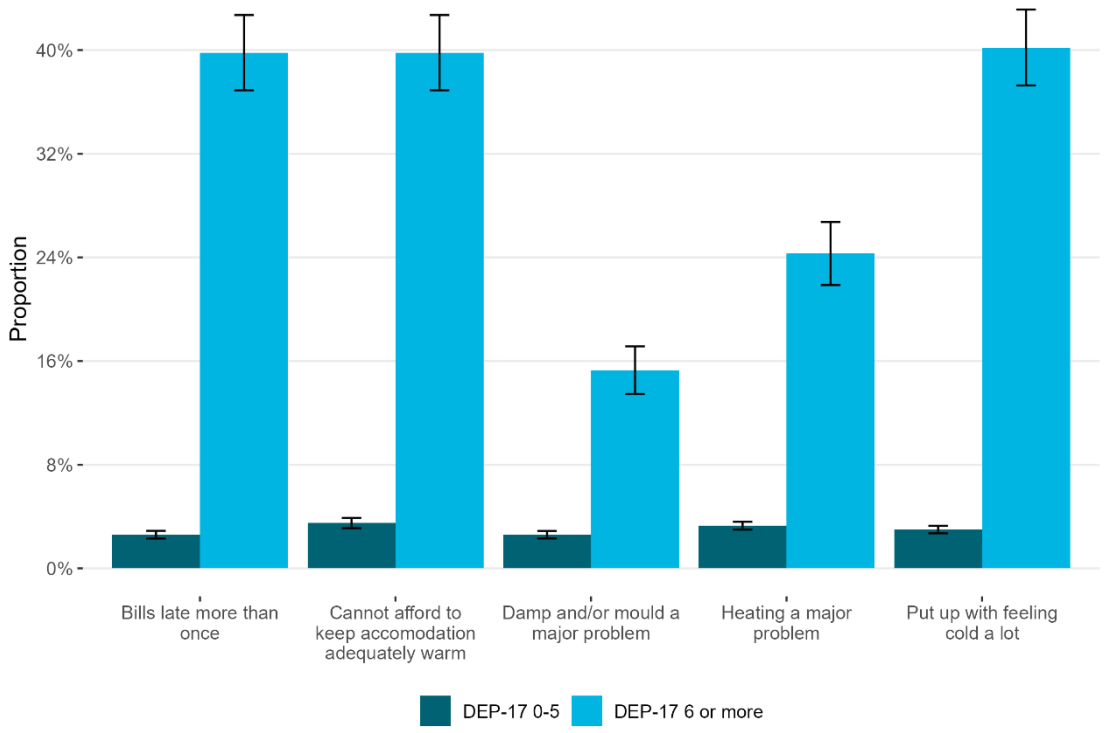
Households in material hardship are more likely to face energy hardship

To align with child poverty statistics, we have analysed our measures using the DEP-17 index of material hardship.

DEP-17 is a New Zealand-specific deprivation index developed by the Ministry of Social Development. It is based on material wellbeing questions in the HES and includes indicators that capture an enforced lack of essentials and economising behaviours (such as cutting back on food or heating). DEP-17 is a key measure in child poverty statistics: a DEP-17 score of 6 or more indicates material hardship, while a score of 9 or more indicates severe material hardship.

Figure 11 shows the proportion of households experiencing the measures of energy hardship by DEP-17 index. Households with a DEP-17 index of 6 or more are between four and seven times more likely than the general population to experience measures of energy hardship, highlighting the interaction of energy hardship with broader material hardship.

Figure 11 Energy hardship measures by DEP-17 score, HES year ended June 2024



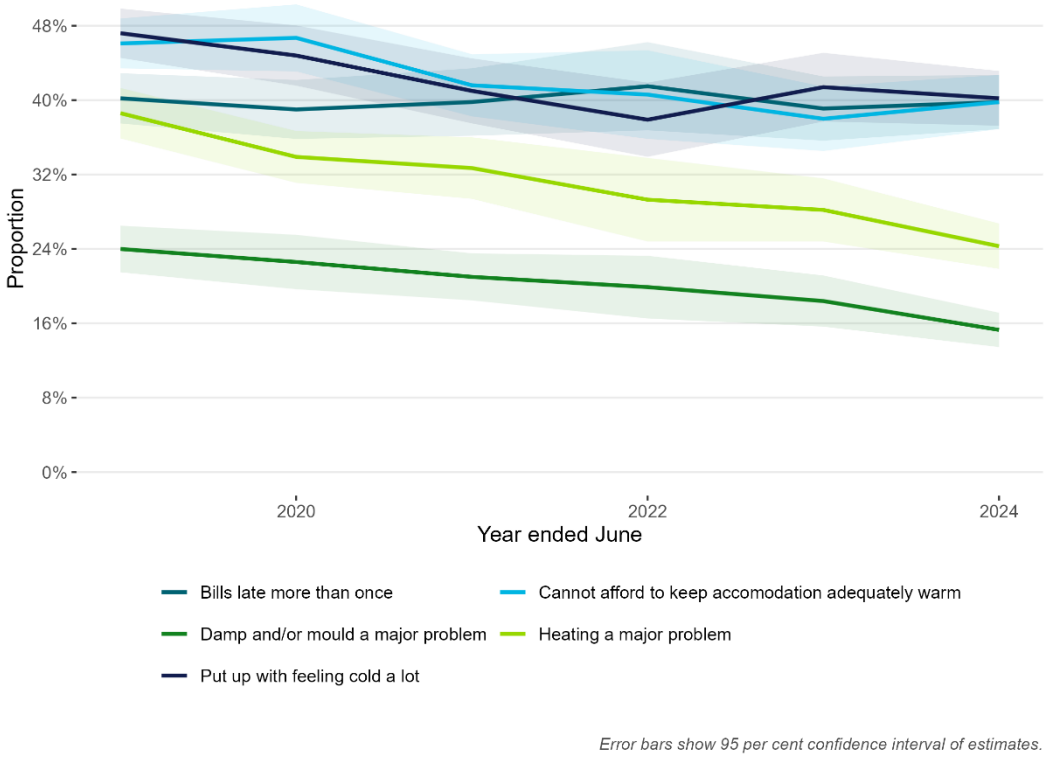
Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

While both groups have seen statistically significant reductions in having major problems with damp and/or mould and heating their accommodation since the year ended June 2019, the reductions have been larger for households in material hardship. The proportion of households in material hardship reporting dampness or mould being a major problem in their accommodation has decreased from 24.0 per cent to 15.3 per cent between the year ended June 2019 and 2024. At the same time, households in material hardship reporting a major problem with heating has decreased from 38.6 per cent to 24.3 per cent.

Figure 12 shows how the measures of energy hardship have changed since the year ended June 2019 for households with a DEP-17 index of 6 or more. Although not statistically significant, the proportion of households in material hardship reporting that they put up with feeling cold a lot or could not afford to keep their accommodation adequately warm are both lower than the year ended June 2019. However, a longer period and further analysis is required to determine if these represent an ongoing trend.

While reductions have been observed in most measures for households with a DEP-17 score of 6 or more, the proportion of households in material hardship that have paid their utilities bills late more than once in the previous 12 months has stayed relatively unchanged at around 40 per cent.

Figure 12 Energy hardship measures for households with a DEP-17 score of 6 or more, HES years ended June 2019 to June 2024



Error bars show 95 per cent confidence interval of estimates.

Annex One – Data sources and things to note

This report has used data from the Stats NZ Household Economic Survey (HES). The HES data for the year ended June 2024 is the last update of the HES. Data for the year ended June 2025 onwards will be collected under a new survey, the Household Income and Living Survey (HILS). More information on the HILS is available on the Stats NZ website[9].

The Household Economic Survey (HES)

What is the Household Economic Survey (HES)?

It is an annual survey designed to measure the economic wellbeing of New Zealanders. It gathers a range of information including household income, savings, and spending patterns.

How does the HES work?

The HES has three components:

1) **HES income** is the main vehicle and is run every year. The survey is conducted over a 12-month period, from 1 July to 30 June. It includes household income, housing costs, and material wellbeing – these collectively are the 'core' HES.
2) **HES expenditure** is run every three years and collects more detailed information on household expenditure. This is done through two additional components – an expenditure diary and an expanded household expenditure questionnaire.
3) **HES net worth** is also run every three years. It includes additional questions on household assets and liabilities.

The target population for the HES is people aged 15 years or older usually residing in private households in the North Island, South Island, and Waiheke Island. Instead of surveying every household in the country, households are selected using a random sample.

Households are interviewed about their circumstances and experiences in the previous 12 months. The intention is that this will even out households' experiences over time but does mean it can take longer to see patterns and trends in the data.

What should be noted when looking at the results?

- Due to the smaller size of Māori and Pacific populations, there are larger sample errors for these groups prior to 2019. Prior to the year ended June 2019, the HES sample was much smaller at around 3,000 to 3,500 households, which limited the ability for the data to be disaggregated for smaller populations. Stats NZ increased the sample size of HES to allow for a more accurate measurement of child poverty and to allow the government to measure progress against targets in the Child Poverty Reduction Act. As a result of the small sample size for these populations prior to 2019, there is some volatility prior to the year ended June in the energy hardship measures.
- The target sample size for the HES in a regular cycle is 20,000 households. Restrictions on activities and movements as part of the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic during the collection period for the year ended June 2022, saw the target reduced to 10,000 households. At the end of data collection in June 2022, the HES for the year ended June 2022

[9] https://www.stats.govt.nz/help-with-surveys/list-of-stats-nz-surveys/about-the-household-income-and-living-survey/

had achieved a sample size of 8,900 households[10]. After analysing the data, Stats NZ found the data was fit-for-purpose at a national level to support official statistics, but advised caution when interpreting statistics for subpopulations, where sample error and a risk of bias might be higher.

[10] https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/impacts-of-disrupted-data-collection-on-2022-household-economic-survey-statistics/

Annex Two – Changes to data from the previous report

Some results from the previous *Report on energy hardship measures* have been revised. This is part of Stats NZ's revisions processes for the HES data. HES relies on several inputs, including population estimates and administrative data. Updates to these can lead to revisions in previously published HES data. More information on the revisions process for the HES is on the Stats NZ website[11].

Since the data that was published for the year ended June 2022 is frequently referenced, the two tables below show how the data has changed for our five measures at the national level. They compare the results for the year ended June 2022 that were published in June 2023 with what the current figures after revisions. For context, the numbers for the year ended June 2024 are also included.

Number of households

Table 1 Comparison of the number of households across the two report editions

Measure	Year ended June 2022		Year ended June 2024
	Published in June 2023	Published in December 2025	
Could not pay electricity, gas rates, or water bills on time more than once in the last 12 months	88,000 (77,440 – 98,560)	89,000 (78,320 – 99,680)	118,000 (109,858 – 126,142)
Cannot afford to keep dwelling adequately warm	110,000 (98,340 – 121,660)	111,000 (98,901 – 123,099)	132,000 (122,100 – 141,900)
Put up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down	100,000 (89,800 - 110,200)	101,000 (90,900 – 111,100)	126,000 (117,054 – 134,946)
Dampness and/or mould a major problem	74,000 (64,824 – 83,176)	75,000 (66,375 – 83,625)	74,000 (67,562 – 80,438)
Trouble heating accommodation and or/keeping it warm in winter	110,000 (100,210 – 119,790)	110,000 (98,120 – 121,880)	102,000 (94,554 – 109,446)

[11] https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/applying-the-stats-nz-revisions-policy-to-outputs-from-the-household-economic-survey/

Proportion of households

Table 2 Comparison of the proportion of households across the two report editions

Measure	Year ended June 2022		Year ended June 2024
	Published in June 2023	Published in December 2025	
Could not pay electricity, gas rates, or water bills on time more than once in the last 12 months	4.6% (4.0% - 5.2%)	4.7% (4.1% - 5.3%)	6.0% (5.6% - 6.4%)
Cannot afford to keep dwelling adequately warm	5.8% (5.2% - 6.4%)	5.8% (5.2% - 6.4%)	6.7% (6.2% - 7.2%)
Put up with feeling cold a lot to keep costs down	5.2% (4.7% - 5.7%)	5.3% (4.8% - 5.8%)	6.3% (5.9% - 6.7%)
Dampness and/or mould a major problem	3.9% (3.4% - 4.4%)	3.9% (3.5% - 4.3%)	3.7% (3.4% - 4.0%)
Trouble heating accommodation and or/keeping it warm in winter	5.7% (5.2% - 6.2%)	5.8% (5.2% - 6.4%)	5.2% (4.8% - 5.6%)