

# BELGIUM

2016 Index<sup>1</sup>: **5<sup>th</sup>**



## HOUSING COSTS

### Housing cost overburden rate<sup>2</sup>:



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

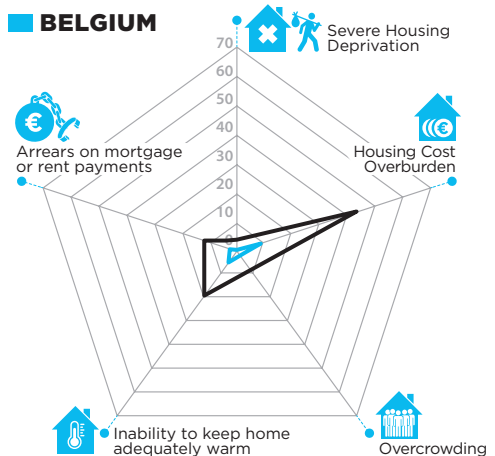
A price-to-income ratio that has been climbing continually since the 2008 financial crisis, in **2014 = 138.1**.

According to RentsWatch<sup>3</sup>, **Brussels is the 36th most expensive city in Europe**. Average cost for new rental contracts in the last 6 months: **€11.9/m<sup>2</sup>**

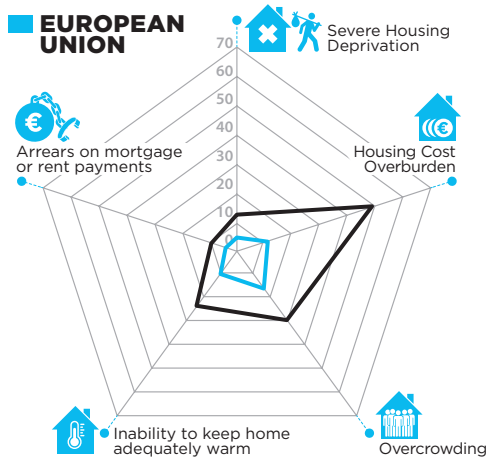
## Housing Exclusion indicators in 2014 (%)

— Total population — Poor people (below 60% of median equalised income)

### BELGIUM



### EUROPEAN UNION



<sup>1</sup> See FEANTSA and the Foundation Abbé Pierre.

<sup>2</sup> European Index of Housing Exclusion<sup>2</sup>: <http://www.feantsa.org/en/report/2016/09/17/an-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe>.

<sup>3</sup> People spending more than 40% of their disposable income on housing.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.rentswatch.com>