



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Quarterly Energy Prices

UK April to June 2023

About this release

Information on average prices paid for energy in the United Kingdom and related energy market statistics.

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Data tables

Additional data are available online as part of the Energy Prices series:

- [Domestic](#)
- [Industrial](#)
- [International comparisons](#)
- [Road fuel](#)

This publication is based on data from several survey from energy suppliers.

New data are incorporated in line with the [revisions policy](#)

The **consumer price index** for all domestic fuels remains higher than the previous year but slightly lower than the previous quarter.

Comparing prices in April to June 2023 with the same period in 2022, average domestic fuel prices were **16 per cent higher** (in real terms, accounting for inflation). Domestic electricity prices were **10 per cent higher** and domestic gas prices **28 per cent higher** over the same period.

Domestic fuel prices (in real terms) in April to June 2023 were **3.5 per cent lower** than prices in the previous quarter (January to March 2023).

Real terms electricity and gas prices over the past decade (2010=100)

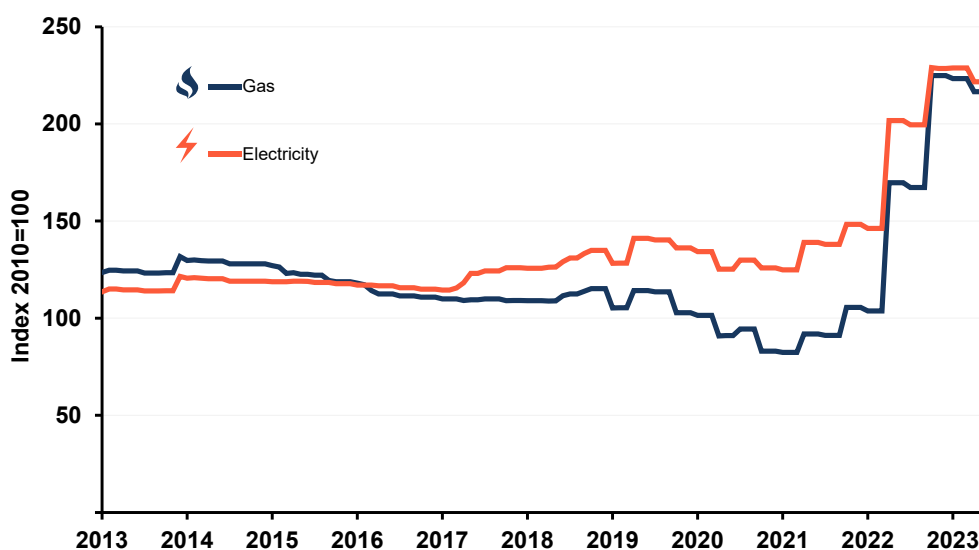


Table 2.1.1 - 2.1.3: Consumer prices index: fuel components in the UK

Average prices for electricity and gas in the **manufacturing sector** remain higher than previous years. The average price (excluding Climate Change Levy) for electricity between April and June 2023 was **19.30 pence per kWh**, up by **2.91 pence per kWh (or 18 per cent)** compared with April to June 2022. Gas prices were **4.56 pence per kWh**, up by **11 per cent or 0.44 pence per kWh** over the same period.

Road fuel prices have increased in the past three months following a steady month-on-month decrease over the first six months of 2023.

The mid-month average retail price of petrol for September 2023 was **154.2 pence per litre** and average retail diesel price was **158.3 pence per litre**, **increases of 8.1 per cent and 8.8 per cent respectively** compared to prices in mid-June 2023. This is still 18 per cent and 20 per cent less respectively than the peak prices in July 2022.

Introduction

The **Quarterly Energy Prices** (QEP) publication and the associated tables provide information on prices paid for energy and fuels in the United Kingdom and other related energy market statistics. Information is presented for both the **domestic market** (which are the prices paid by households for their energy and fuels) and the **non-domestic sector**.

Domestic market metrics presented include the **consumer price index** for fuels used in households (based on Office for National Statistics data), **average gas & electricity bills** for UK households, information on **how customers pay** for their electricity and statistics on **competition in the market**.

Domestic Market Prices

Data are presented on the **non-domestic sector** (any user of energy that is not a household) and subcategories within this population. Prices paid for fuels in the **industrial sector**, by **manufacturing companies** within this sector and by electricity generating companies (**major power producers**) are outlined in this section.

Non-Domestic Sector Prices

The publication also provides a summary of national information on prices for **oil and petroleum** products. Additionally, road fuels are collated and published online both on a **weekly** and **monthly** basis here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-fuel-and-other-petroleum-product-prices

Oil and Petroleum Prices

International data are also collated and presented in the publication to provide comparisons between prices paid in the UK with other countries. This includes comparisons with other members of the **International Energy Association** (IEA) and comparisons with **European Union** (EU) member states.

International Comparisons

This issue of the Quarterly Energy Prices release provides data for the second quarter of the 2023 calendar year (April to June) and, in some series, monthly data, yearly data and revisions to previous quarters' data.

Quarterly updates include data on the **retail price of fuels for the domestic sector**, **customer account transfer statistics** and **proportions of customers and what types of contracts they are on**.

It contains updates on **non-domestic energy prices**, including prices paid by **energy generators**. Additionally, there are updates on the **prices of petroleum products** (both domestically and internationally).

Please note: When a '**quarter**' is referred to in this release it is a quarter (3 months) in the context of a **calendar year**, so 'Quarter 2' refers to 1 April to 30 June unless otherwise stated.

The underlying data series associated with this release are available here:

Domestic energy prices	gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-energy-prices
Industrial energy prices	gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-energy-prices
International price comparisons	gov.uk/government/collections/international-energy-price-comparisons
Oil and petroleum product prices	gov.uk/government/collections/road-fuel-and-other-petroleum-product-prices

Weekly petroleum prices are also available, published as part of the [Weekly Fuel Prices](#) series.

More information on the frequency and specific content of these tables can be found in the [timetable and data tables](#) section.

Domestic Market Prices

Households in the UK predominantly use **Electricity** from the national grid as their main source of energy. Most households also use **Gas** in their homes. Some households also use other fuels, such as heating oil for fuel-based generators and for heating as alternatives to on-grid options.

The domestic market prices section in this issue covers revised quarterly **market competition** data from Ofgem (the energy market regulator), **consumer price index data** from ONS (the Office of National Statistics) and **customer proportions** data, based on the same survey data as used in estimated domestic bills figures.

This publication includes data that covers from 1 October 2022 onwards; during which time domestic prices were covered by the **Energy Price Guarantee** which discounts domestic prices to a guaranteed price in instances where Ofgem's price cap would result in domestic bills higher than this guaranteed price.

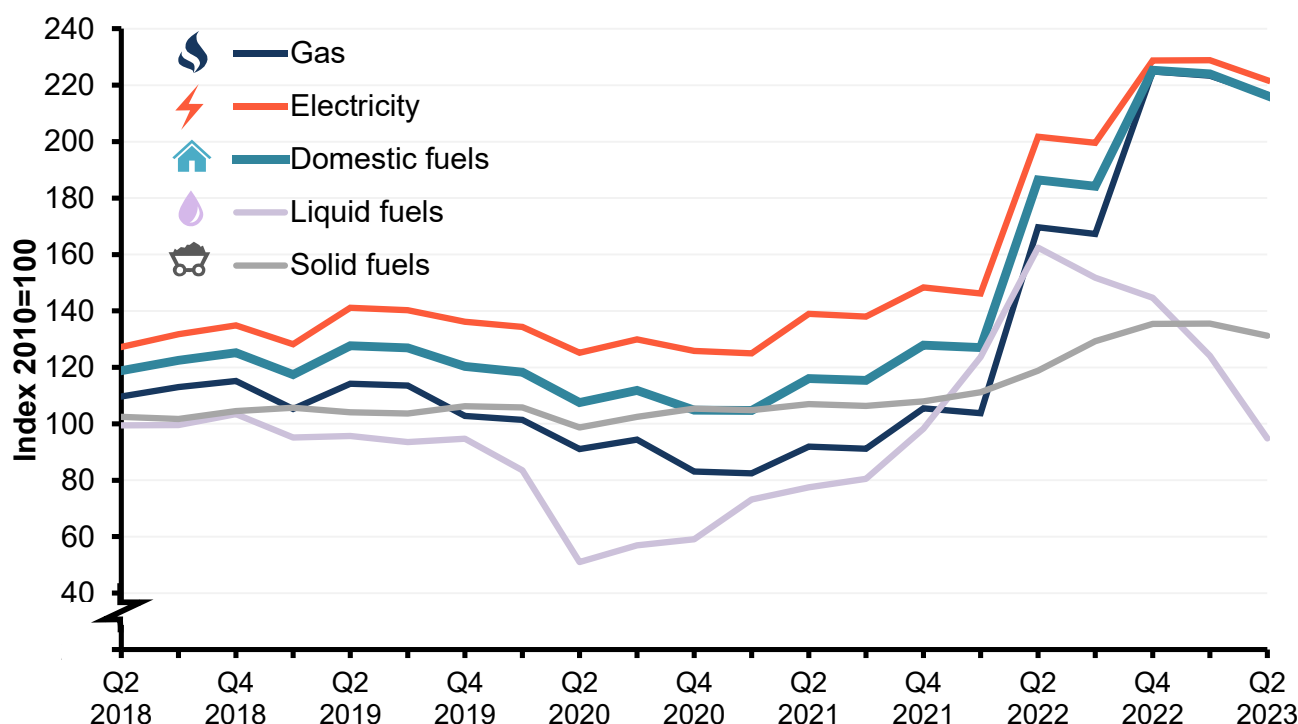
More information on this can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support/energy-bills-support-factsheet-8-september-2022

Retail Price of Fuels for the Domestic Sector

Retail market price **indices** of fuels used in the domestic sector information are sourced from the Office for National Statistics' **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** data series, the full series available here at the [ONS Consumer Price Inflation page](#).

Chart 2.1: Real terms energy price indices in the domestic sector over the past 5 years, quarterly, UK



Source: Office of National Statistics, Consumer Prices Index
Data in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the GDP (market prices) deflator

Reference and links to tables:

[Table 2.1.1 - 2.1.3: Consumer prices index: fuel components in the UK](#)

Chart 2.1 shows quarterly changes in the domestic sector price indices (in real terms) over the past 5 years.

The price paid for all domestic fuels in quarter 2 2023 (in **real terms** and **including VAT**) **increased by 16 per cent** when compared with the same quarter in 2022. Electricity prices have **increased by 10 per cent** and

Gas prices **increased** by **28 per cent** over the same time period. (Tables 2.1.1 - 2.1.2). Between quarter 1 2023 and quarter 2 2023 domestic fuel prices **decreased** by **3.5 per cent** in real terms.

Prices for electricity and gas closely follow similar trends (see **Chart 2.1**) and as they make up the majority of the weighting for domestic fuels, they steer the trend in overall domestic fuels.

Solid fuels in this release include coal and smokeless fuel. The prices presented are based on standard grade household coal and boiler grade smokeless fuel.

Liquid fuels in this release comprises of domestic kerosene and similar heating oils. However, prices for other domestic fuels follow different and, in the case of liquid and solid fuels, more erratic trends than other fuels.

Prices of liquid fuels are based on retail market prices and vary depending on the locations sold and are also prone to the effects of other factors such as demand, weather, material, and delivery costs. Additionally, prices for these fuels are not subject to the same level of regulation seen in the electricity and gas markets, which have price caps set by the regulator.

The price for liquid fuels has dropped quarter on quarter since Q2 2022. The price of liquid fuels in Q2 2023 was 42 per cent lower than the price in Q2 2022, in real terms.

Domestic electricity and gas bills

Provisional annual domestic bills estimates for 2023 will be published in December with final estimates published in March. Commentary on the most recent annual bills figures (final bills estimates for 2022) is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-march-2023>

Government Domestic Bill Support

Reflecting the cost-of-living pressure on households, the government announced a package of [support measures](#), including the Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS) and the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG).

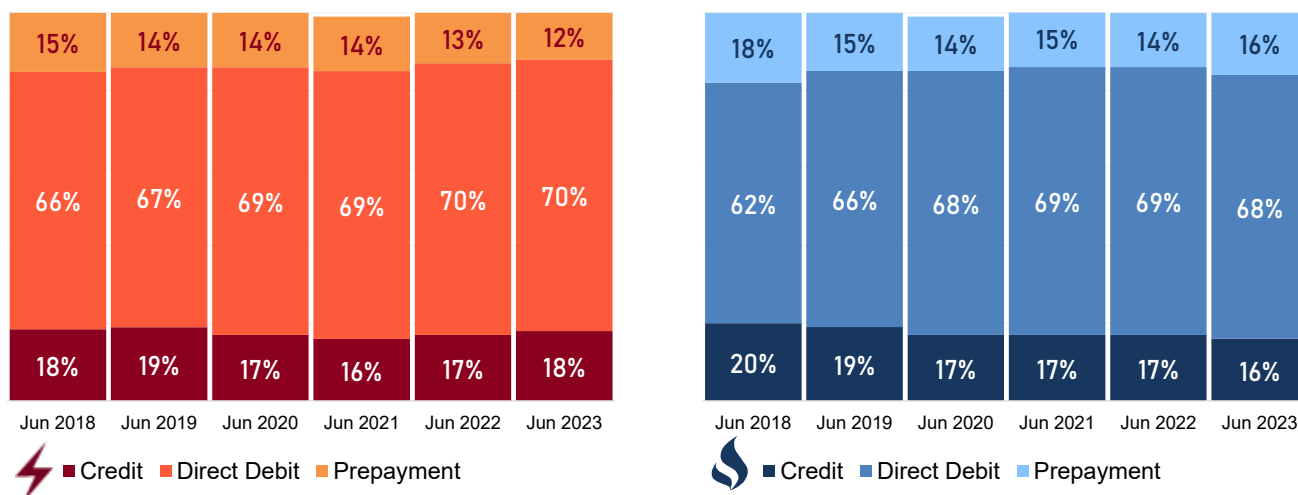
More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support/energy-bills-support-factsheet-8-september-2022>.

Payment methods

The three main **payment methods** consumers use to pay for their domestic energy bills we identify are **Prepayment**, **Credit** and **Direct Debit**

Prepayment is essentially a 'pay as you go' method, users topping up an allowance and usage drawing on their balance. **Credit** is where households settle the bill on the electricity or gas, they used upon receipt but do not pay a recurring set payment as with **Direct Debit**.

Chart 2.2: Proportion of households by payment type, between June 2018 and June 2023



Reference and links to tables:

[Table 2.4.2: Regional variation of payment method for standard electricity](#)

[Table 2.5.2: Regional variation of payment method for Gas](#)

At the end of June 2023, most Standard Electricity customers in the United Kingdom (UK) and Gas customers in Great Britain (GB¹) were paying their bills via **Direct Debit**. Comparing proportions over the last five years, there has been a shift by households to Direct Debit of **4 percentage points** for standard electricity and **6 percentage points** for gas.

Fixed and Variable Tariffs

A **variable tariff** is a tariff that is subject to change at any point in time. A **fixed tariff**² is one where the price has been set at a constant rate for a defined period.

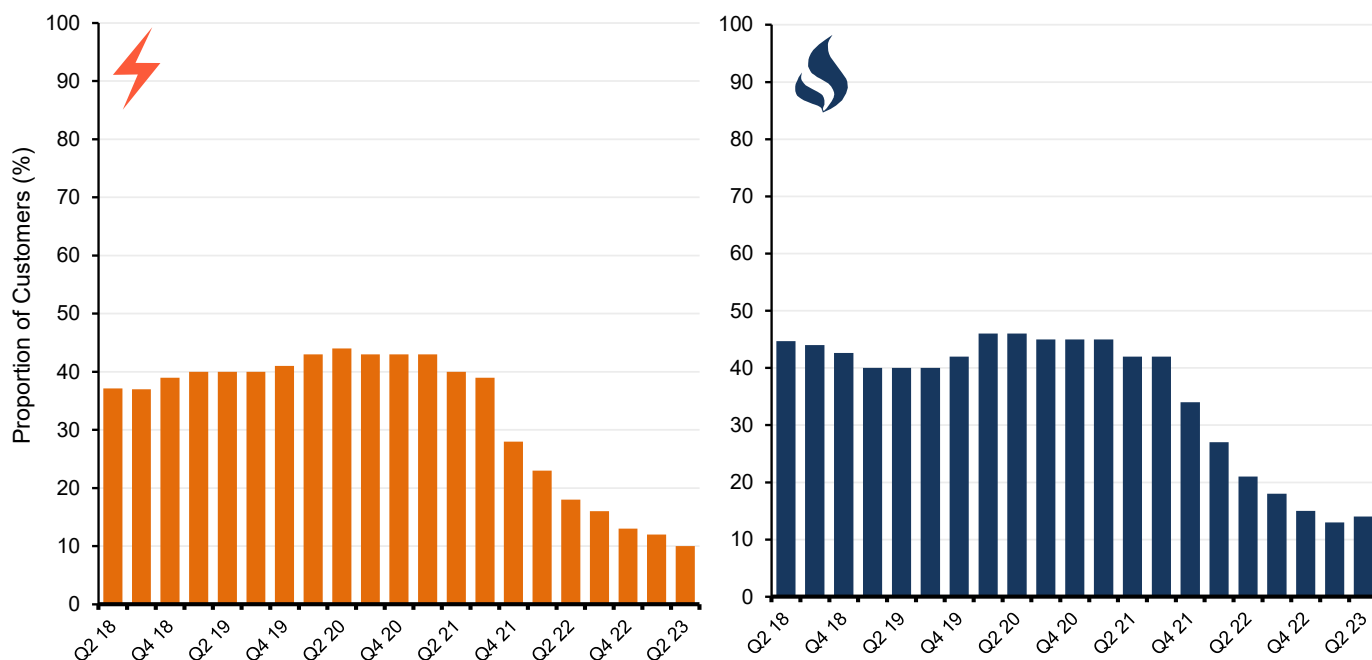
Please note We determine whether tariffs are fixed or variable, based on the attributes of tariff names provided by energy companies.

We are continually reviewing our methodology, but these are currently classed as **Experimental Statistics** and are not as robust as the data presented elsewhere in the release. We are intending to change this classification but will require a change to the data collection to include this information from companies on submission.

¹ Gas is not as widely adopted in Northern Ireland as it is in the rest of the UK, so this collection does not include Northern Ireland gas data.

² The method used to determine a fixed tariff is dependent on the tariff naming conventions so proportions are to be treated as best estimates.

Chart 2.3: Proportion of customers on fixed tariffs for both Electricity and Gas since Quarter 2 2018



Reference and link to tables:

[Table 2.4.2: Regional variation of payment method for standard electricity](#)

[Table 2.5.2: Regional variation of payment method for Gas](#)

The proportion of customers on fixed term contracts had decreased between 2022 and 2023 as fewer fixed tariffs were offered and the remaining customers who were at the end of their fixed term moved onto standard variable tariffs. In more recent months, more fixed tariffs have begun to be offered by suppliers.

At the end of June 2023, **10 per cent** of all standard electricity and **14 per cent** of all gas customers were on fixed tariffs. This compares with **18 per cent** of all standard electricity and **21 per cent** of all gas customers in June 2022. These are both lower than the June 2020 peak, where fixed contracts were 44 per cent of all Standard Electricity customers and 46 per cent of all Gas customers.

Economy 7 and Other Time of Use Tariffs Average Annual Bills

Economy 7: Electricity Tariffs which have a separate unit cost for the night and day and are designed for use with night storage heaters.

Other Time of Use Tariffs: Electricity Tariffs which have separate unit costs for different times of the day and night to correspond with high and low demand periods. Note that there can be multiple unit rates across the day and night.

Some customers have time of use meters for electricity instead of “dual fuel” gas and electricity. Data for the proportion of customers on Economy 7 tariffs can be found in [Tables 2.4.1 - 2.4.3](#) and data on the bills the customer on time of use tariffs face can be found in [Tables 2.2.1 - 2.2.5](#).

Home and Non-home Suppliers

Customers with their ‘home’ supplier as referred to in this data set, are those with the energy companies that was the regional suppliers of gas and electricity to households prior to privatisation. Customers with ‘non-home’ suppliers are those with the energy companies that were not. Some of these suppliers no longer exist as a distinct company, the company which acquired or merged with the home supplier are now treated as such in the region the former company operated.

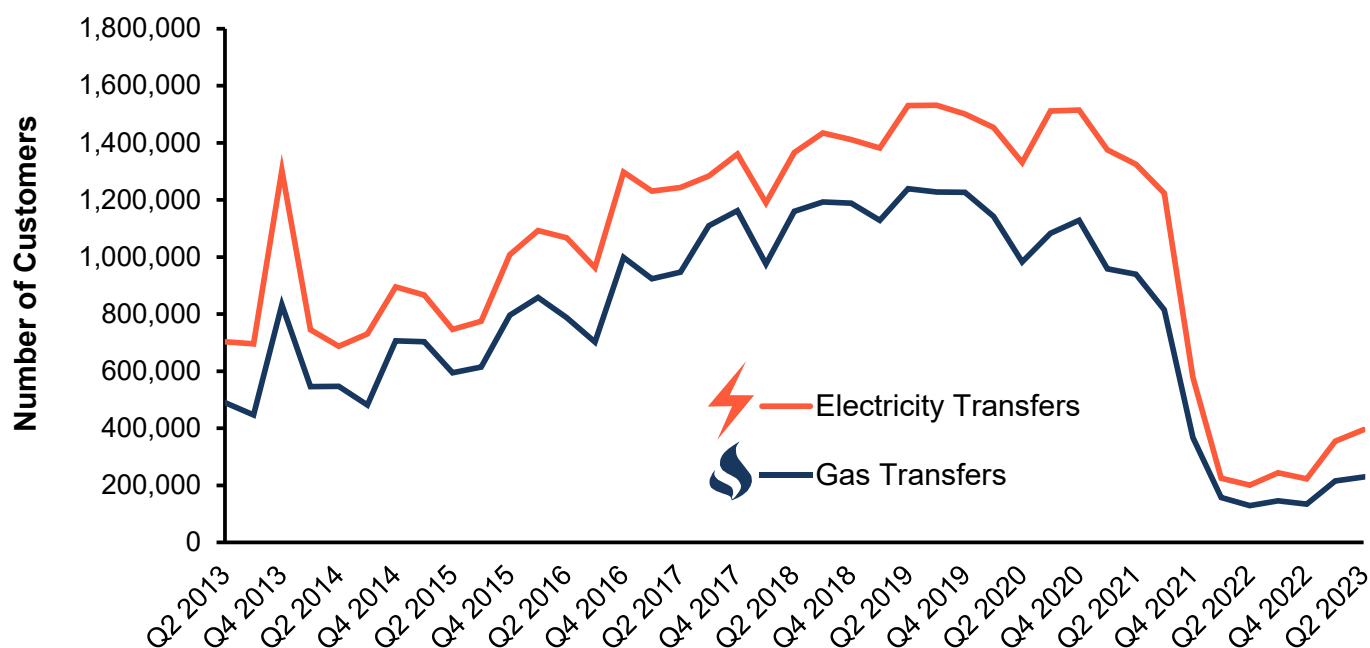
Data for the proportion of customers with the home or non-home supplier for their region can be found in [Tables 2.4.1 and 2.5.1](#) and data on customer bills split by home and non-home supplier can be found in [Tables 2.2.1 and 2.3.1](#).

Transfer Statistics

The Office for Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) provides the Department with the number of domestic customers in Great Britain that have switched supplier, for both electricity and gas. More information on the retail market can be found on [Ofgem's retail market data portal](#).

Please note: the number of customers switching supplier shown in the graph is based on the number of meter points a supplier gains from another following a customer **choice** to change their supplier. Therefore this number **does not include** either internal switches among “white labels” or brands associated with the same supplier nor customer transfers resulting from corporate changes, company mergers and “Supply of Last Resort” events.

Chart 2.4: Domestic Gas and Electricity transfers over the past decade³



Source: Ofgem

Please note: For Electricity, this covers the whole domestic market. Formerly Gas switching levels only covered the main six suppliers. From January 2014 Ofgem provided switching levels for the whole market.

Reference and link to tables:

[Table 2.7.1: Transfer statistics in the domestic Gas and electricity markets](#)

There were an estimated 395,000 electricity transfers and 229,000 gas transfers in quarter 2 2023. These quarterly transfers represent around **1.3 per cent** of the market for domestic electricity customers and **0.9 per cent** of the domestic market for gas customers.

Compared with last quarter (quarter 1 2023) there has been a continued uptick in transfers; electricity transfers are up **40,000 (11 per cent)** and gas transfers are up by **13,000 (6.0 per cent)**. When compared with quarter 2 last year (2022) transfers have also increased, albeit from historic lows - electricity transfers are **up 97 per cent** and gas transfers are **up 78 per cent** over this time period.

The large drop in transfers since quarter 4 2021 follows increases in wholesale gas prices and other market shocks which led to variable tariffs across the market being increasingly charged closer to or at the Ofgem price cap level and later the Energy Price Guarantee. Additionally, there are continued fewer competitive fixed tariffs offered, given ongoing uncertainty on price in the market.

³ Since April 2016 data supplied has included additional filtering to remove non-domestic customers. This data is sourced from network operators and filtered by the active suppliers in the market, who to the best of Ofgem's knowledge are operating in the domestic and non-domestic segments of the energy market. For this reason, the data supplied from April 2016 onwards may be more accurate but lower than levels before this time.

Non-Domestic Market Prices

Electricity and gas prices for the non-domestic sector

This section presents electricity and gas prices data in the non-domestic sector, which **excludes** prices paid by households and generally **comprises** the industry sector (manufacturing, energy for example) and the commercial sector (services, retails for example).

Many businesses are on fixed price contracts which are negotiated and renewed at different points in time and therefore increases in wholesale prices and changes in the energy market will impact on non-domestic customers in different and less even or consistent ways.


The **Climate Change Levy (CCL)** is an energy tax payable on supplies of electricity, gas, liquified petroleum gas and solid fuels to businesses and public sector organisations which aims to increase energy efficiency. The levy is intended to be a price signal for businesses to improve their energy efficiency.

Energy Bill Relief Scheme and Energy Bills Discount Scheme

The [Energy Bill Relief Scheme](#) (EBRS) was announced in September and was set out to provide discounts to non-domestic customers between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. The impact of this is reflected in the data relating to quarter 4 2022 and quarter 1 2023 in this release and to some extent, the annual total for 2022. The scale of the discount customers receive under the scheme is dependent on their individual contracts so impacts vary customer to customer.

In January 2023, the [Energy Bills Discount Scheme](#) (EBDS) was announced. This scheme sets out to provide support to UK non-domestic consumers for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 once the previous scheme ends.

Table 3a Percentage change in Quarter 2 2023 non-domestic electricity prices compared to the previous year

	Consumer Band	Consumption Band (in MWh)	Prices excluding CCL pence per kWh	% change on previous year (excluding CCL)
	Average		27.26	46%
	Very Small	0 - 20	29.96	38%
	Small	20 - 499	27.82	37%
	Small/Medium	500 - 1,999	30.57	40%
	Medium	2,000 - 19,999	26.35	49%
	Large	20,000 - 69,999	27.53	66%
	Very Large	70,000 - 150,000	25.07	43%
	Extra Large	> 150,000	22.54	32%

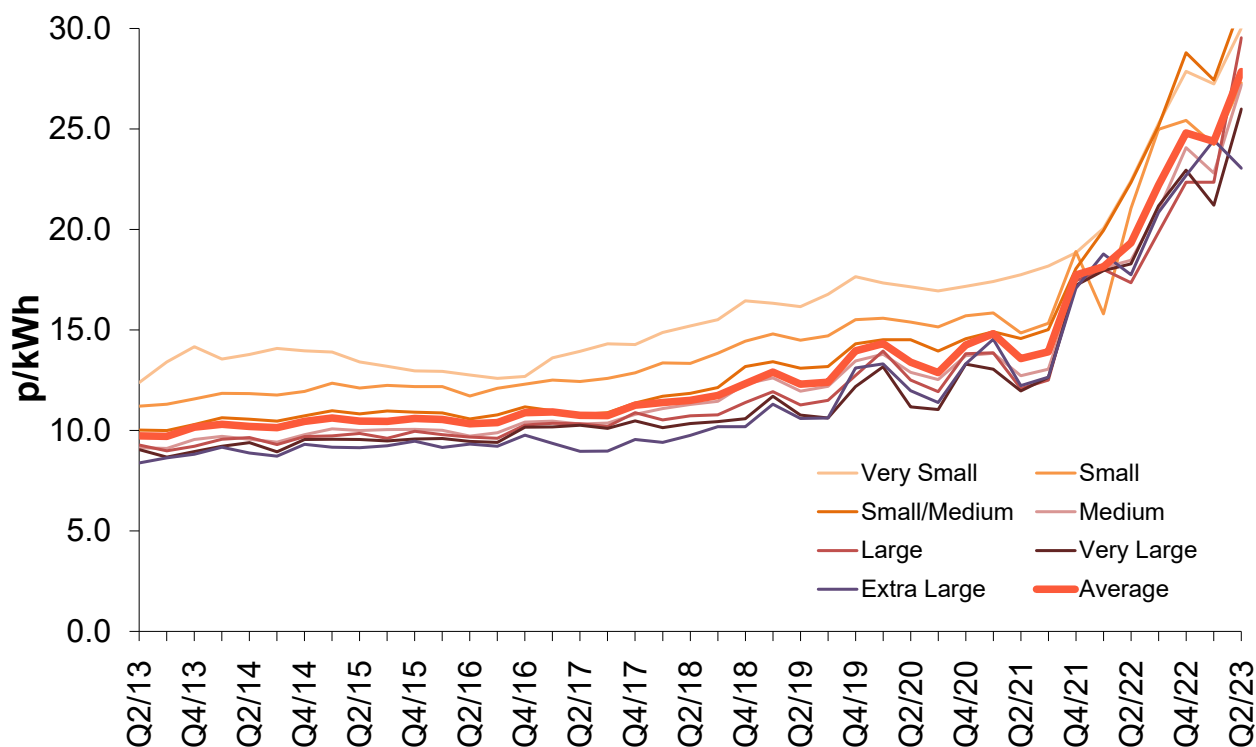
Reference and link to tables:

[Table 3.4.1 and 3.4.2: Price of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK excluding and including CCL](#)

Between quarter 2 2022 and quarter 2 2023 the average electricity price in cash terms **excluding CCL** in the non-domestic sector **rose by 46 per cent to 27.3 pence per kWh**. There has been increase average prices across all size bands in quarter 2 2023 compared with quarter 2 2022.

Price increases were seen in all consumption bands though the increases seen more in medium and larger bands. Note that the very large and extra-large bands are subject to more erratic change over time as they are based on fewer consumers.

Chart 3.1: Average Non-Domestic Electricity Prices Including CCL




Reference and link to tables:

[Table 3.4.1](#) and [3.4.2](#): Price of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK excluding and including CCL

In the longer term, average electricity prices in the non-domestic sector, **including CCL**, have been on a general upward trend. Since quarter 3 2021 there was a sharp rise in average electricity prices, which continued through to the end of 2022 with a slight decrease in the quarter 1 2023.

Table 3b Percentage change in Quarter 1 2023 non-domestic gas prices compared to the previous year

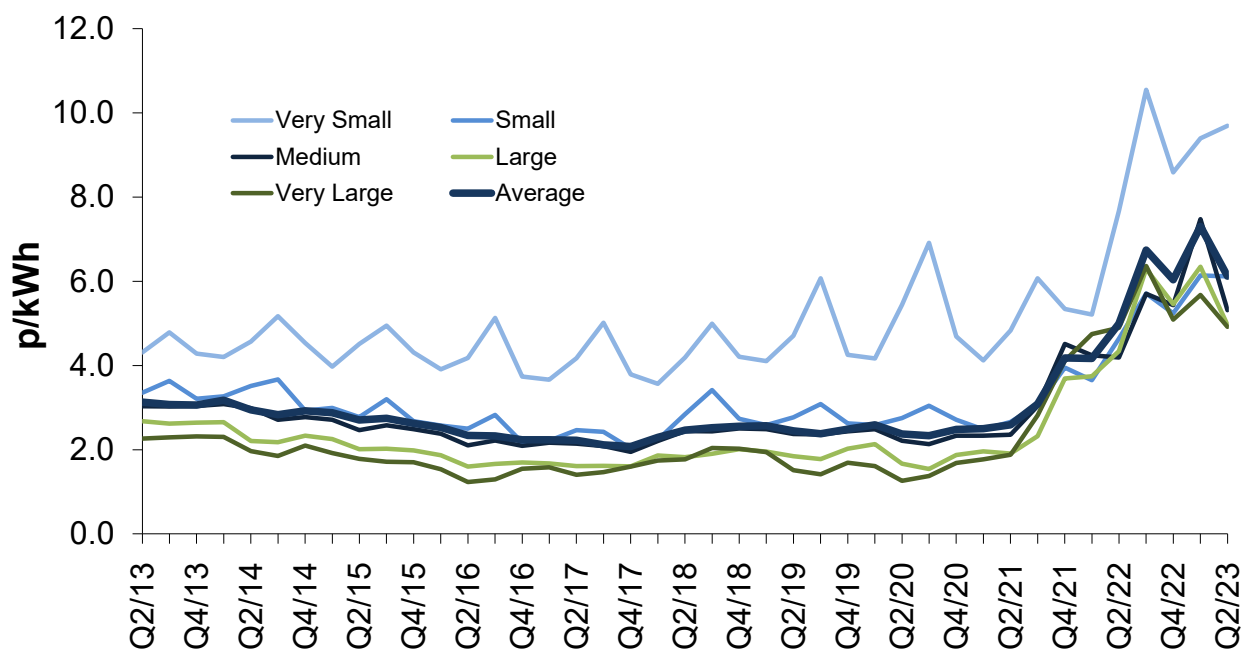
 Consumer Band	Consumption Band (in MWh)	Prices excluding CCL pence per kWh	% change on previous year (excluding CCL)
Average		5.86	-17%
Very Small	<278	9.31	3.4%
Small	278 - 2,777	5.72	-0.7%
Medium	2,778 - 27,777	5.02	-30%
Large	27,778 - 277,777	4.83	-22%
Very Large	277,778 - 1,111,112	4.84	-13%

Reference and links to tables:

[Table 3.4.1](#) and [3.4.2](#): Price of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK excluding and including CCL

Between quarter 2 2022 and quarter 2 2023, the average **gas** price in cash terms **excluding CCL** in the non-domestic sector **decreased by 17 per cent to 5.9 pence per kWh**. Price decreases were seen in all sizes of consumer bands apart from a slight increase in the very small category. Note that the very small and very large bands are subject to more erratic change over time as they're based on fewer consumers.

Chart 3.2: Average Non-Domestic Gas Prices Including CCL



Reference and links to tables:

[Table 3.4.1](#) and [3.4.2: Price of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK excluding and including CCL](#)

Average gas prices, **including CCL**, fell at a steady pace from the previous high reached in Quarter 1 2014 to a low of 2.07 pence per kWh in Quarter 4 2017. Prices then increased in 2018 and up until quarter 3 2021 were broadly stable when factoring in seasonal variation. Since quarter 3 2021 there has been a general upward trend in average gas prices until the most recent decrease.

Energy prices in the manufacturing sector

Manufacturing is a subset of industry that use fuels in the manufacturing process and include companies that produce by-products of the fuels.

Prices of fuels in the manufacturing sector, excluding CCL, for various size bands of consumers are presented in [Tables 3.1.1 to 3.1.4](#). The fuels used in the manufacturing sector are mainly **heavy fuel oil, gas oil, electricity and gas** though **coal** is also used.

Heavy Fuel Oil, a derivative from the oil refining process is used for heating and to fuel furnaces and boilers in industrial plants. It is very viscous and requires to be kept at a high temperature and pre-heating before use.

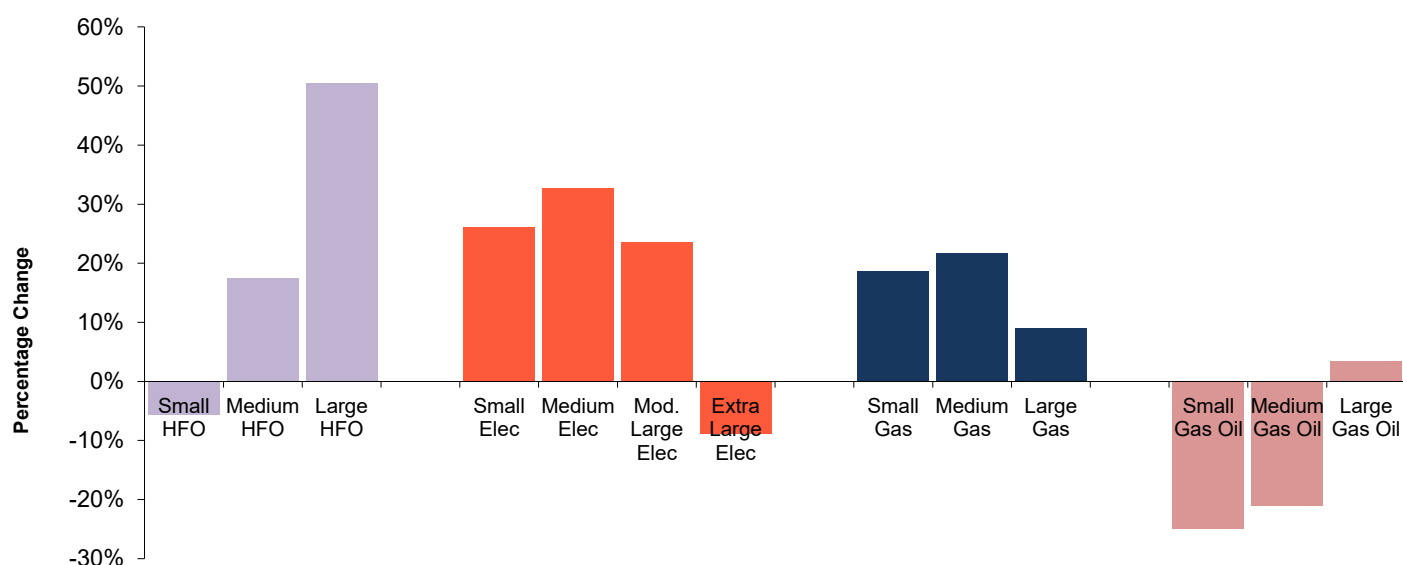
Gas Oil (sometimes referred to as Red Diesel for agricultural uses) is a more refined product than Heavy Fuel Oil and is also used as a fuel for heating and in off-road vehicles like tractors and machinery in the construction and agricultural sectors.

For reference, the various bands of consumers for manufacturing firms classified by the amount of fuel purchased in a year are shown in the table below:

	Small	Medium	Large ¹	Extra Large
Heavy Fuel Oil (tonnes)	< 490	490 - 4,900	> 4,900	
Electricity (MWh)	< 880	880 - 8,800	8,800 - 150,000	>150,000
Gas (MWh)	< 1,500	1,500 - 8,800	> 8,800	

1. Large is 'Moderately Large' for electricity

Chart 3.3: Manufacturing industry fuel price change between quarter 2 2022 and quarter 2 2023 (provisional) by size of consumer ⁽¹⁾



(1) Percentage price movement between Quarter 1 2022 and Quarter 1 2023 for heavy fuel oil (HFO), electricity, gas and gas oil in cash terms excluding Climate Change Levy (CCL)

References and link to tables:

- [Table 3.1.1: Quarterly prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(original units\)](#)
- [Table 3.1.2: Quarterly prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(p/kWh\)](#)
- [Table 3.1.3: Annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(original units\)](#)
- [Table 3.1.4: Annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(p/kWh\)](#)

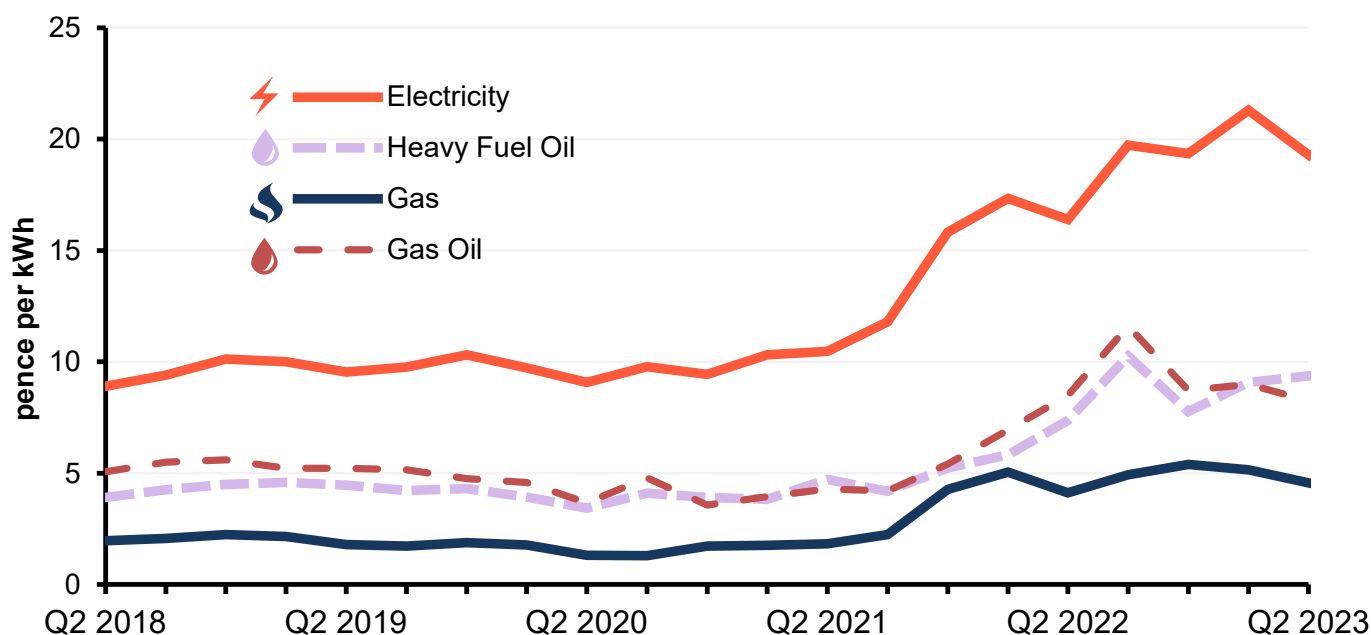
Compared to the previous year, **heavy fuel oil** consumers in the manufacturing industry in quarter 2 2023 have seen an average price **increase of 27 per cent** or **2.00 pence per kWh** in cash terms to 9.37 pence per kWh.

Between quarter 2 2023 and the same period in 2022, the average price paid by **electricity** consumers in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, **increased by 18 per cent** or **2.91 pence per kWh** to an average of 19.30 pence per kWh.

Compared to the previous year, in quarter 2 2023, the average price for **gas** consumers in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, **increased by 11 per cent** or **0.44 pence per kWh**. Increasing from 4.12 pence per kWh in January to March 2022 to 4.56 pence per kWh in the same period in 2023.

Most of the recent increases in gas prices took place predominately in the second half of 2021 with variation across 2022, as this average closely follows the trend in wholesale gas prices.

Chart 3.4: Average quarterly prices of fuels purchased by the manufacturing industry since Q2 2018



Also, over the same period, the average price paid for **gas oil** in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, **decreased slightly by 2.8 per cent** or **0.23 pence per kWh** to an average of 8.25 pence per kWh.

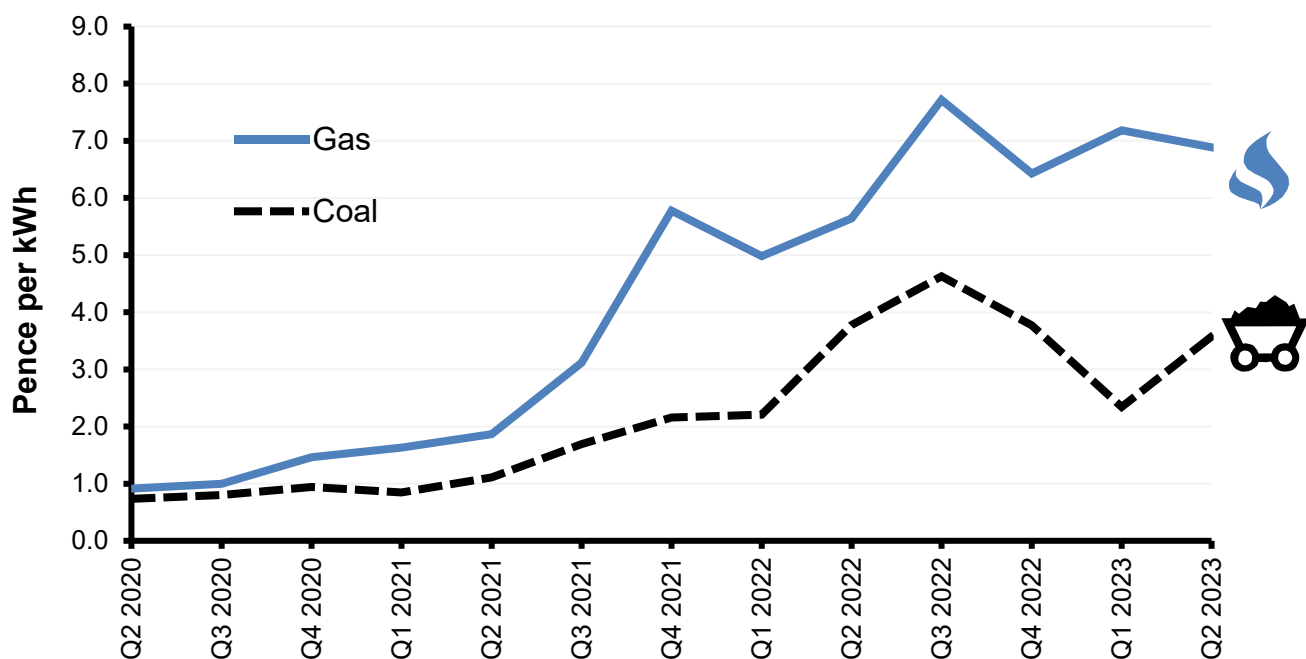
Average prices of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers

Major Power Producers are companies that use fuels such as natural gas and coal to produce electricity.

Average purchase costs of fuels (presented in common units) used to generate electricity are recorded in Table 3.2.1.

Please note: These figures present the **fuel** input costs, however comparing the different input costs between fuels does not explain the full costs involved in generation. Total generation costs are also affected by other costs, including transportation and the efficiency with which fuels are converted into electricity in different types of power station.

Chart 3.5: Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas, quarterly



Reference and link to tables:

[Table 3.2.1: Average price of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers](#)

Comparing quarter 2 2023 and quarter 2 2022 the price of **coal** in cash terms for power stations was **5.3 per cent lower** but **up by 53 per cent on the previous quarter** to 3.6 pence per kWh.

The price of **natural gas** used for generation in quarter 2 2023 was 6.9 pence per kWh. This is **22 per cent higher** than the same quarter in the previous year but a **slight decrease of 4.1 per cent** on the previous quarter's price.

As shown in Chart 3.4, in quarter 2 2023 the price of gas, in pence per kWh, was around **twice the price of coal** leading to a **price gap in cash terms of 3.3 pence per kWh**.

Oil and Petroleum Product Prices

This section presents information on oil and petroleum products prices paid in the United Kingdom. The petroleum products referred to in this section are unleaded petrol and diesel.

Diesel and unleaded petrol are referred to as **road fuels**. Together these account for the majority of fuels used in the transport sector with aviation fuel, biofuels and some gas oil making up the remainder. This section focuses on the average 'forecourt' or 'pump' prices for unleaded petrol and diesel. Other derivatives of oil products are presented as their average wholesale prices.

All underlying petroleum and oil data and other related publications can be found on GOV.UK here: gov.uk/government/collections/road-fuel-and-other-petroleum-product-prices

In addition to the summary in this publication, average road fuel prices are also published in the **Weekly Road Fuel Prices** publication and are available at: gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/oil-and-petroleum-products-weekly-statistics

Also, experimental statistics on **Average Weekly Road Fuels Sales and Stock Levels at Forecourts** are available at gov.uk/government/statistics/oil-and-oil-products-section-3-energy-trends

Crude oil prices

Movements in the price of crude oil can affect the prices of the various refined petroleum products and therefore impact on the domestic and industrial fuels.

Over the years, several factors have affected the prices of crude oil, for example: oil shortages (1973), over-supply and weak demand (1998), hurricanes (2005), the global recession (2008-9), geopolitical tensions (2008 onwards) and more recently the Coronavirus pandemic and the recovery from it (2020 onwards), and the Russia-Ukraine conflict (2022 onwards).

Crude oil is the raw material processed at refineries to produce various petroleum products. They vary in colour, composition and consistency. The economic value of crude oil increases as its API gravity (a measure of its density) increases and its sulphur content decreases.

Chart 4.1: Monthly index⁽¹⁾ of crude oil prices acquired at refineries



The index represents the monthly average price paid by refineries, calculated in pound Sterling on a cost, insurance, freight (CIF) basis. Reference and link to tables:

[Table 4.1.1: Typical monthly retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil index](#)

Chart 4.1 shows the price indices of crude oil acquired by UK refineries over the past five years.

Since March 2020, demand has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic which initially drove prices down, reaching a low in April 2020 before steadily rising throughout 2021 with a sharp uptick in early 2022 as volatility reflecting geopolitical events and the Russia-Ukraine conflict impacted global markets.

The latest available crude oil price index is for **August 2023**. Crude oil prices have increased compared to three months ago by **10 per cent** and August's price was **down 33 per cent** from the recent peak in June 2022. Road fuel prices for August are also **14 per cent down** from March 2022, which was historically the highest level recorded in our series (which started in 1991) before this current price trend. However, prices remain above pre-pandemic levels. Crude oil prices are **51 per cent** higher than February 2020.

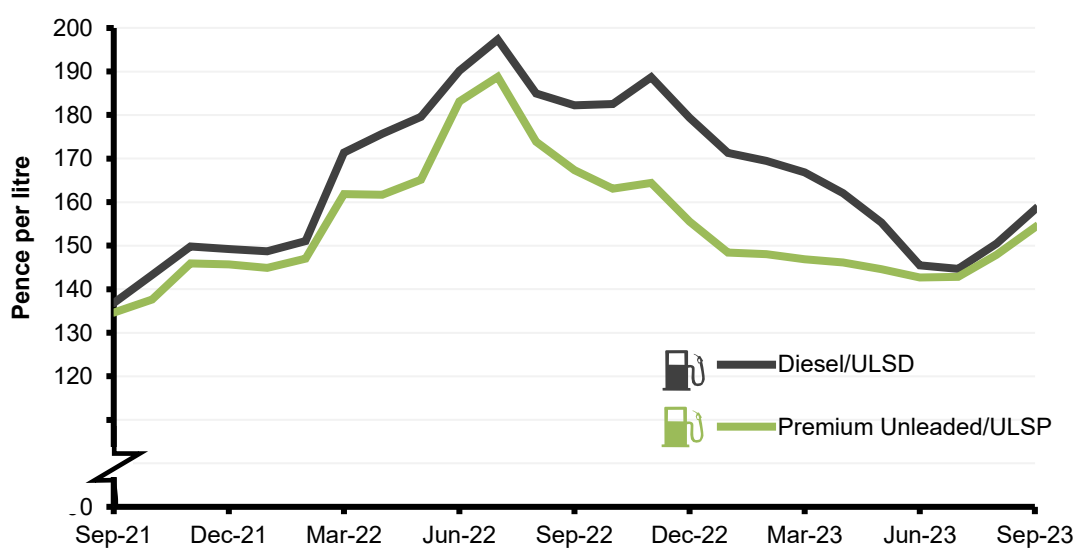
Retail prices of petroleum products

Pump prices reflect a range of factors include the wholesale price of crude oil, delivery and distribution costs, duty, VAT, environmental levies and retail margins.

ULSP Ultra-Low-Sulphur Petrol. This is the specific grade of petrol that is commonly used on forecourts across the UK. It is the standard for petrol used when referring to 'unleaded petrol' in this release.

ULSD Ultra-Low-Sulphur Diesel. This is the grade of diesel product used on forecourts in the UK. Wherever **DERV** or **Diesel-Engine Road Vehicles** is used in this release, it is referred to this standard for diesel.

Chart 4.2: Average retail prices of road fuels, monthly



Reference and link to tables:

[Table 4.1.1: Typical monthly retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil index](#)

Chart 4.2 shows that, in mid-September 2023, a litre of **petrol** (ULSP) was on average **154.2 pence per litre**. This was **7.8 per cent lower** than the same period in 2022. Petrol prices are also **18 per cent lower** than the recent peak of **188.8 pence per litre** in mid-July 2022.

The **diesel** (ULSD) price was **158.3 pence per litre** in mid-September 2023. This was a **13 per cent decrease** from the same period in 2022. Additionally, this is a **20 per cent decrease** from the recent peak of **197 pence per litre** in mid-July 2022.

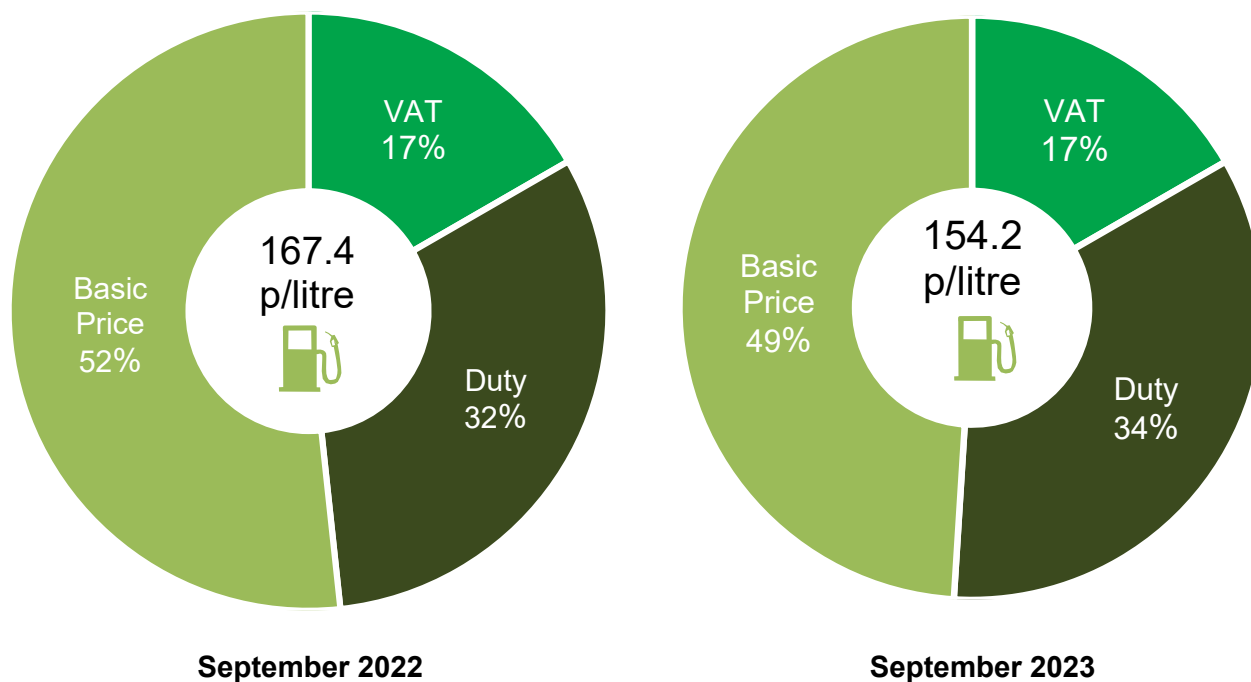
Whilst there was a period of sustained decrease in petrol and diesel prices between November 2022 and July 2023, they have increased over the last 2 months. Mid-September average petrol prices were **6.3 pence per litre (4.3 per cent) higher** than mid-August prices and **11.4 pence per litre (8.0 per cent) above** mid-July. Comparisons in diesel prices reflected similar shifts, with mid-September prices on average **7.9 pence per litre (5.2 per cent) higher** than mid-August prices, and **13.7 pence per litre (9.5 per cent) higher** than mid-July.

Fuel prices remain higher than previous years, with September 2023 mid-month petrol prices **19.65 pence per litre higher** than the same period in 2021, and **23.49 pence per litre higher** than the September 2018 mid-month prices. Diesel also remains higher, **up 21.50 pence per litre** compared with September 2021, and **23.86 pence per litre higher** than September 2018's mid-month prices.

The gap between petrol and diesel widened over 2022. However, the differential has decreased month on month since November 2022 when diesel was **24 pence per litre more expensive than unleaded**. In July 2023 the **price differential was just 1.8 pence per litre** but by September 2023 this had widened again to a **difference of 4.1 pence per litre**.

The widening of the petrol-diesel gap in recent weeks means that the difference seems to be returning to a value more consistent with historical trends following a period of increased volatility. The current difference of **4.1 pence per litre** is **1.7 pence lower** than the average difference of **5.8 pence per litre** observed between September 2013 and September 2023, and **0.6 pence lower** than the average difference of **4.7 pence per litre** observed in the 10 years up to 2022 (January 2012- December 2021).

Chart 4.3: Component price of unleaded petrol, September 2022 and September 2023



Basic price is the price excluding VAT and duty

Reference and link to tables:

[Table 4.1.1: Typical monthly retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil index](#)

Prices of petroleum products are also affected by duty rate changes and by changes in the general rate of VAT. Duty for road fuels from 23 March 2011 to 22 March 2022 were set at 57.95 pence per litre. From 23 March 2022 duty was reduced to 52.95 pence per litre⁴.

In September 2023 duty made up **34 per cent** of the total price, this is up from **32 per cent** in September 2022. Chart 4.3 shows the components of the retail price of petrol in September 2022 and 2023. In September 2023, the “**basic price**” (includes wholesale fuel price, delivery & distribution costs and retail margin but excludes tax and duty) of petrol was **66.0 pence per litre**, duty was at **52.95 pence per litre**, and VAT at 20 per cent of basic price plus duty was **23.8 pence per litre**.

The basic price made up **49 per cent** of the total price in September 2023, this is down from **52 per cent** in the previous year.

Comparisons of the UK petrol and diesel prices with other countries, including the relative proportions of taxes and levies to basic price, can be found in the International Price Comparisons section below.

⁴ Details of March 2022 duty changes can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-fuel-duty-rates>

International Price Comparisons

This section compares prices data for the United Kingdom with the European Union (and the International Energy Association (IEA) in some issues). This issue focuses on **road fuel price comparisons** with prices paid in the European Union.

The Department provides the IEA with UK data throughout the year and data from other countries are used in this report to make consistent comparisons to highlight relative competitiveness.

International Data all the underlying international comparisons data and related publications can be found on GOV.UK here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/international-energy-price-comparisons

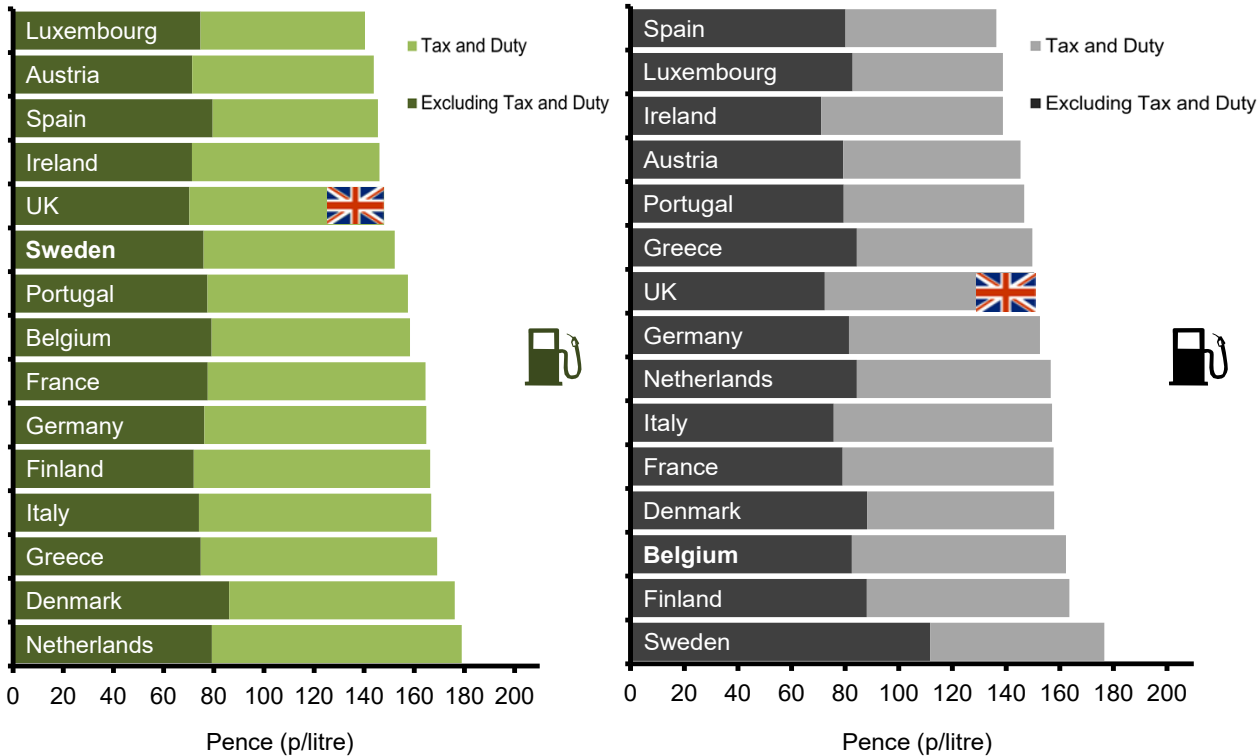
International prices vary due to many reasons including differences in indigenous resources and market structures, global issues, varying exchange rates and inflation rates.

Unleaded petrol and diesel prices

In **August 2023** the **average UK unleaded petrol price**, including tax and duty, was the **fifth cheapest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **147.9 pence per litre**. When presented in a common currency basis, the lowest price for unleaded across the EU14+UK was in Luxembourg at **140.3 pence per litre** while the highest price was in The Netherlands at **178.9 pence per litre**.

In **August 2023** the **average UK diesel price**, including tax and duty, was the **seventh cheapest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **150.5 pence per litre**. The lowest price for diesel across the EU14+UK was in Spain at **136.4 pence per litre** while the highest was in Sweden at **176.6 pence per litre**. Generally, the UK is close to the most expensive for Diesel, the average position for the previous 12 months was third most expensive.

Charts 5.1 & 5.2: Premium unleaded petrol prices and diesel prices, August 2023



Source: European Commission Oil Bulletin
 Reference and link to tables:
[Table 5.1.1](#) and [5.2.1: Premium unleaded petrol prices in the EU](#)

International electricity and gas prices

Prices for electricity and gas in this section and the related tables vary depending on the period covered (Eurostat provides data based on a 6-monthly and annual basis) and by consumption band and overall average.

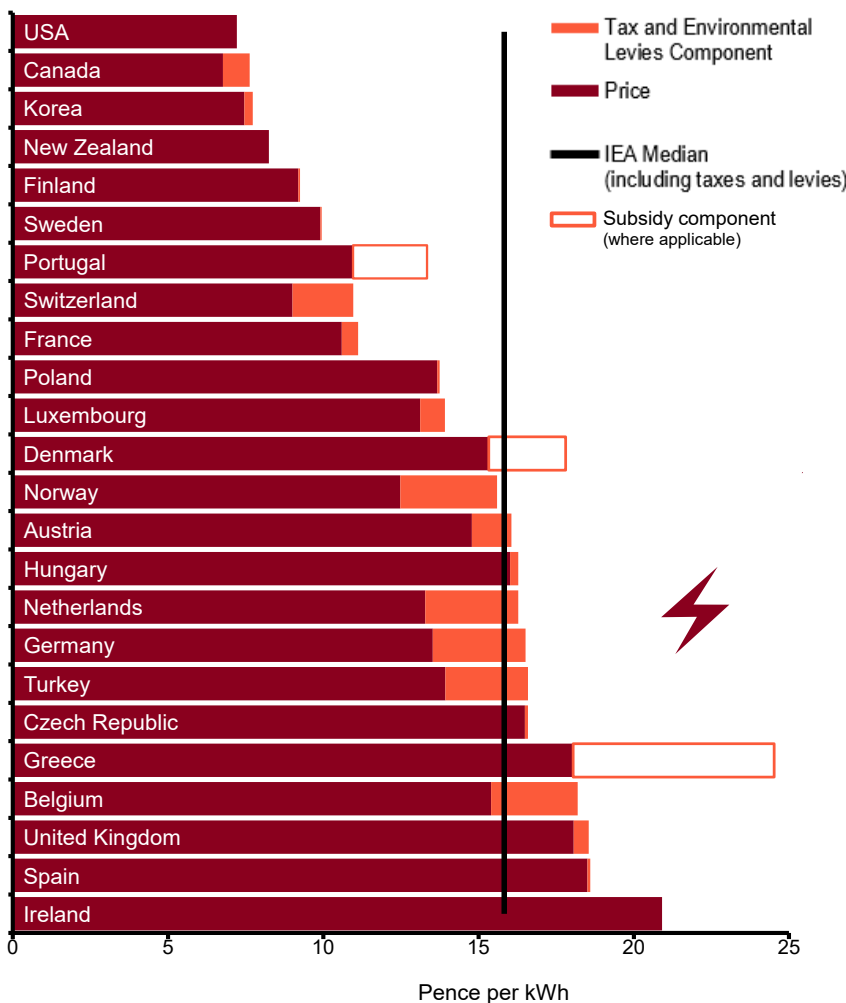
Eurostat tables have more timely data on 6-monthly ('semester') basis and reflect changes on a shorter timescale. This data can be found on the Eurostat website, published under the Energy section of the [Eurostat's Energy & Environment theme within the Europa database](#). The annual **International Energy Agency (IEA)** tables allow comparisons on a broader level including with non-EU countries.

The data in this release always refers to a 'Medium' consumer (see the Annex for definitions) of each fuel type. Rankings will differ between the IEA and Eurostat tables as the charts only include actual data available at the time of publication. A line on the charts is included to represent the median price **including** taxes and levies.

Industrial electricity price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Of the 26 IEA countries reporting industrial electricity prices in 2022 the UK had the third highest price including taxes and levies with only Spain and Ireland having higher prices. The USA had the lowest industrial electricity price.

Chart 5.3 Industrial electricity prices 2022



Source: IEA

Note: Data not provided by Japan and Australia. No tax data was provided by the USA. Greece, Denmark and Portugal have including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.

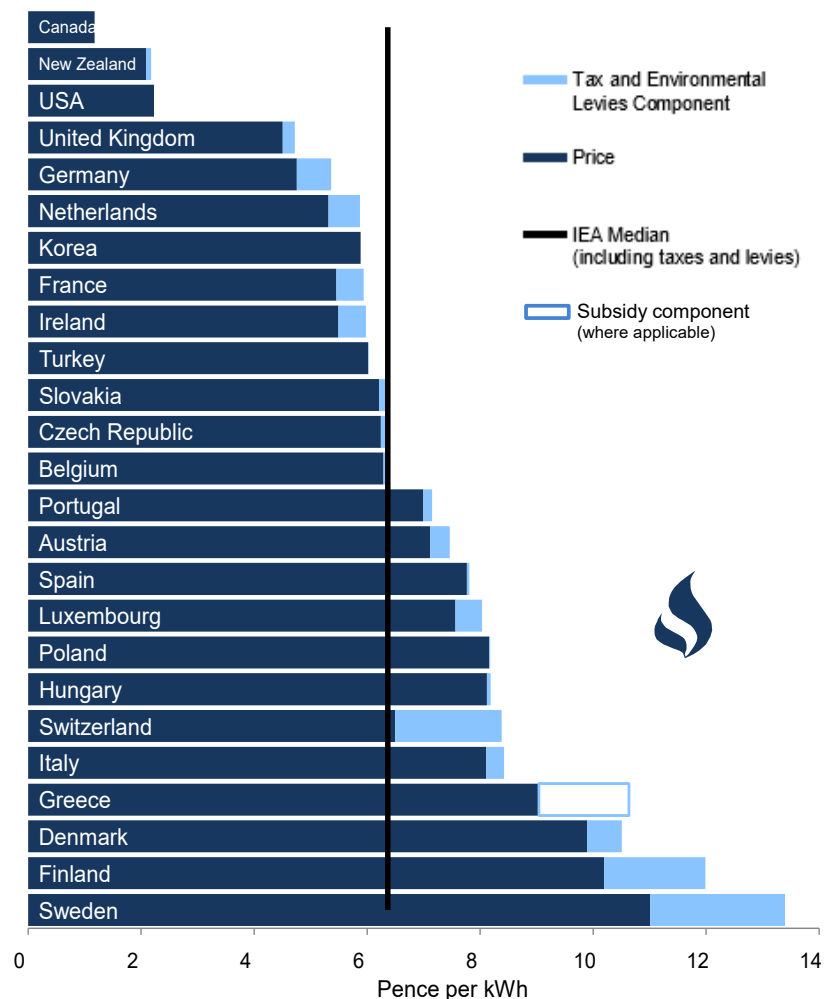
Reference and link to table:

[Table 5.3.1: Industrial electricity prices in the IEA including and excluding taxes](#)

Industrial gas price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Of the 25 IEA countries reporting industrial gas prices in 2022 the UK had the fourth lowest price including taxes and levies. The USA, New Zealand and Canada had lower prices than the United Kingdom, with Canada having the lowest price overall. Sweden had the highest price including taxes and levies.

Chart 5.4 Industrial gas prices 2022



Source: IEA

Note: Data not provided by Australia, Japan, and Norway. No tax data was provided by the USA. Greece has including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.

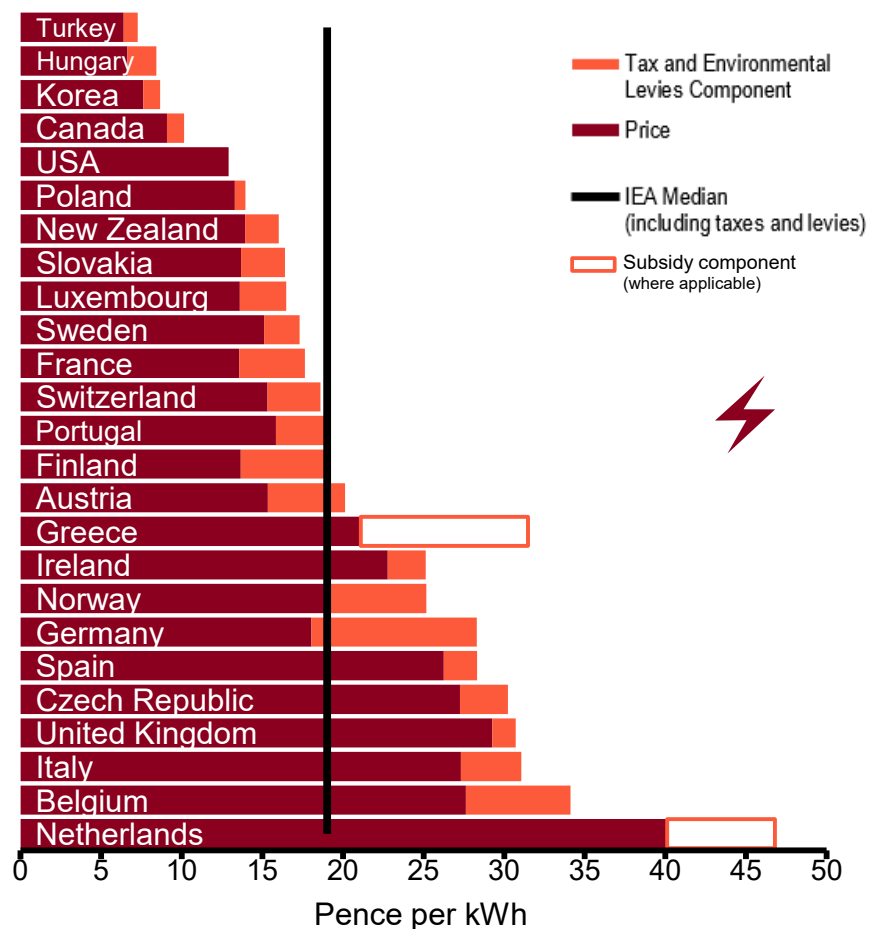
Reference and link to table:

[Table 5.7.1: Industrial gas prices in the IEA including and excluding taxes](#)

Domestic electricity price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Of the 26 IEA countries reporting domestic electricity prices in 2022 the UK had the fourth highest price (including taxes and levies). Turkey had the lowest domestic electricity price and The Netherlands had the highest price, including the subsidy component.

Chart 5.5 Domestic electricity prices 2022



Source: IEA

Note: Data not provided by Australia and Japan. No tax data was provided by the USA. Greece and The Netherlands have including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.

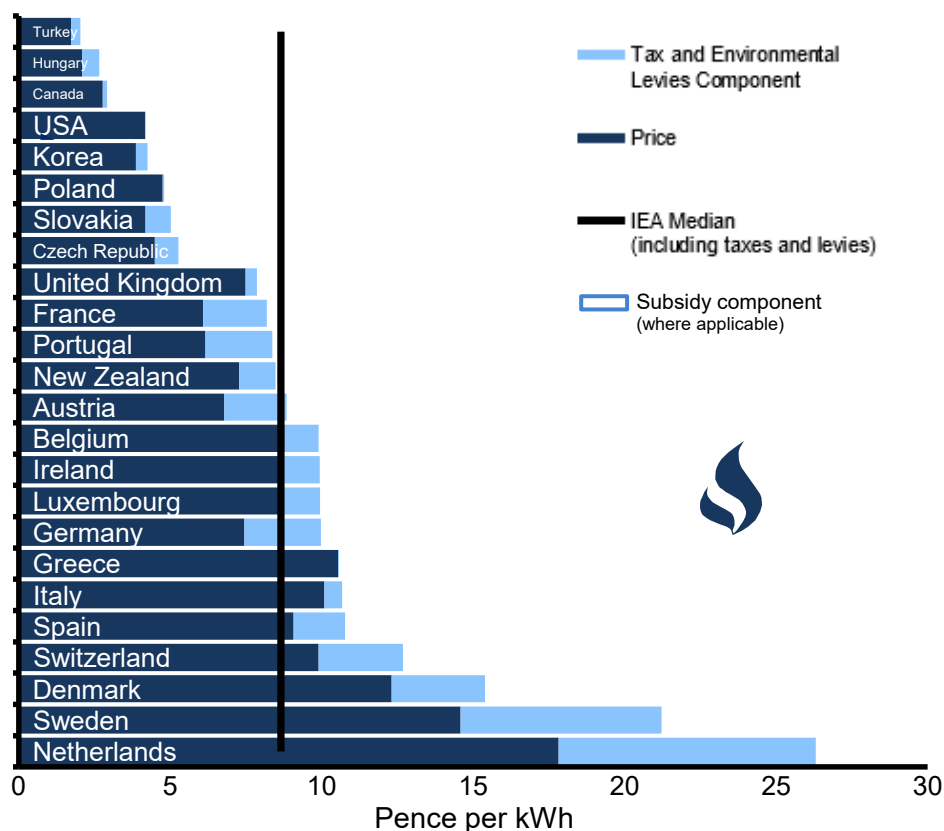
Reference and link to table:

[Table 5.5.1: Domestic electricity prices in the IEA including and excluding taxes.](#)

Domestic gas price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Of the 24 IEA countries reporting domestic gas prices in 2022 the UK had the ninth lowest when including taxes and levies. As with domestic electricity, Turkey had the lowest price overall and The Netherlands had the highest price including taxes.

Charts 5.6 Domestic gas prices 2021



Source: IEA

Note: Data not provided by Finland, Australia, Japan and Norway. No tax data was provided by the USA. Greece has including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.

Reference and link to table:

[Table 5.9.1: Domestic gas prices in the EU15 and G7 countries including and excluding taxes](#)

Price comparisons with EU Countries

The most recent comparisons with EU countries are detailed in the June 2023 QEP publication found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-june-2023>

Links to the relevant EU comparison tables can be found here:

[Industrial electricity prices in the EU for small, medium, large and extra-large consumers \(QEP 5.4.1 to 5.4.4\)](#)

[Industrial gas prices in the EU for small, medium and large consumers \(QEP 5.8.1, 5.8.2 and 5.8.3\)](#)

[Domestic electricity prices in the EU for small, medium and large consumers \(QEP 5.6.1, 5.6.2 and 5.6.3\)](#)

[Domestic gas prices in the EU for small, medium and large consumers \(QEP 5.10.1, 5.10.2 and 5.10.3\)](#)

Timetable and data tables

Update Timetable

Below are the update timetables for the four key areas covered in the Quarterly Energy Prices release. These underlying tables are published at various times of the year and sometimes outside of a quarterly National Statistics publication (which are published March, June, September and December each year).

Domestic Tables

Tables for the [Domestic energy prices](#) area:

Topic	Area	Freq.	No.	Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Domestic Energy Prices	Domestic energy price indices	Monthly	2.1.1	Consumer prices index: fuel components													
		Monthly	2.1.2	Consumer prices index: fuel components, relative to GDP deflator													
		Monthly	2.1.3	Consumer prices index: fuel components, monthly figures													
	Domestic Energy Bills Electricity	Annual	2.2.1	Average annual domestic electricity bills by home and non-home supplier			R										
		Annual	2.2.2	Average annual domestic electricity bills for UK countries			R										
		Annual	2.2.3	Average annual domestic standard electricity bills in 2017 for UK regions with average unit costs			R										
		Annual	2.2.4	Average variable unit costs and fixed costs for electricity for UK regions			R										
		Annual	2.2.5	Average annual domestic electricity bills by various consumption levels								R					
	Domestic Energy Bills Gas	Annual	2.3.1	Average annual domestic gas bills by home and non-home supplier			R										
		Annual	2.3.2	Average annual domestic gas bills for GB countries			R										
		Annual	2.3.3	Average annual domestic gas bills for GB regions with average unit costs			R										
		Annual	2.3.4	Average variable unit costs and fixed costs for gas for GB regions			R										
		Annual	2.3.5	Average annual domestic gas bills by various consumption levels								R					
	Customer numbers Electricity	Quarterly	2.4.1	Percentage of domestic electricity customers by region and supplier type													
		Quarterly	2.4.2	Regional variation of payment method for standard electricity													
		Quarterly	2.4.3	Regional variation of payment method for Economy 7 electricity													
	Customer numbers Gas	Quarterly	2.5.1	Percentage of domestic gas customers by region and supplier type													
		Quarterly	2.5.2	Regional variation of payment method for gas													
	Household Data	Annual	2.6.1	Total household expenditure on energy													
		Annual	2.6.2	Average expenditure each week on fuel per consuming household													
Switch	Quarterly	2.7.1	Domestic energy switching statistics														

Industrial Tables

Tables for the [Industrial energy prices](#) area:

Industrial Energy Prices	Manufacturing industry	Quarterly	3.1.1	Prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry in Great Britain (original units)													
		Quarterly	3.1.2	Prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry in Great Britain (p/kWh)													
		Annual	3.1.3	Annual Prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry in Great Britain (original units)						R							
		Annual	3.1.4	Annual Prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry in Great Britain (p/kWh)						R							
	Power Producers	Quarterly	3.2.1	Average prices of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers													
	Industrial energy price indices	Quarterly	3.3.1	Fuel price indices for the industrial sector in current terms excluding the Climate Change Levy													
		Quarterly	3.3.2	Fuel price indices for the industrial sector in current terms including the Climate Change Levy													
	Industrial Energy Bills	Quarterly	3.4.1	Prices of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK excluding the Climate Change Levy													
		Quarterly	3.4.2	Prices of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK including the Climate Change Levy													

Fuel Tables

Tables for the [Road fuel prices](#) area:

Topic	Area	Freq.	No.	Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Fuel Prices	Road Fuels and Petroleum Products	Monthly	4.1.1	Typical retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil price index													
		Annual	4.1.2	Average annual retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil price index	R												
		Annual	4.1.3	January prices of road fuels and petroleum products		R											

International Tables

Tables for the [International energy price comparisons](#) area:

International Prices	ULSP EU	Monthly	5.1.1	International road fuel prices Premium unleaded petrol prices in the EU													
	ULSD EU	Monthly	5.2.1	International road fuel prices Diesel prices in the EU													
	Ind. IEA Elec	Biannual	5.3.1	Industrial electricity prices in the IEA													
	Industrial Prices EU Electricity	Biannual	5.4.1	Industrial electricity prices in the EU for small consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.4.2	Industrial electricity prices in the EU for medium consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.4.3	Industrial electricity prices in the EU for large consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.4.4	Industrial electricity prices in the EU for extra-large consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
	Dom. IEA Elec	Biannual	5.5.1	Domestic electricity prices in the IEA													
	Domestic Prices EU Electricity	Biannual	5.6.1	Domestic electricity prices in the EU for small consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.6.2	Domestic electricity prices in the EU for medium consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.6.3	Domestic electricity prices in the EU for large consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
	Ind. IEA Gas	Biannual	5.7.1	Industrial gas prices in the IEA													
	Industrial Prices EU Gas	Biannual	5.8.1	Industrial gas prices in the EU for small consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.8.2	Industrial gas prices in the EU for medium consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
		Biannual	5.8.3	Industrial gas prices in the EU for large consumers (both excluding and including tax)													
Dom IEA Gas	Biannual	5.9.1	Domestic gas prices in the IEA														
Domestic Prices EU Gas	Biannual	5.10.1	Domestic gas prices in the EU for small consumers (both excluding and including tax)														
	Biannual	5.10.2	Domestic gas prices in the EU for medium consumers (both excluding and including tax)														
	Biannual	5.10.3	Domestic gas prices in the EU for large consumers (both excluding and including tax)														

Key:

The colours on the timetable indicate the frequency and status of the data series:

	Annual
	Biannual
	Quarterly
	Monthly
R	Scheduled Revision

Technical information

Information in this publication is sourced from various surveys of the energy industry conducted by the Energy Prices Analysis team in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

- The domestic bills information is collected as part of the Domestic Fuels Inquiry which surveys key energy suppliers to provide a representative sample of the market.
- The majority of the non-domestic data are sourced from the Quarterly Fuels Inquiry return, run by ONS on behalf of the Department. Data is also sourced from Ofgem, the ONS and other Department for Energy Security and Net Zero surveys.
- International comparisons data are sourced from the International Energy Association and European Union and include UK data collected using the same definitions and standards.

Data presented in the tables are in cash terms unless noted otherwise. Real terms data are those from which the effects of inflation, as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) market prices deflator, have been removed. The [GDP deflator](#) provides an index of inflation for the whole economy and is applicable to domestic and industrial prices.

Further information on the data sources, processing methods, uses of and quality assurance of the data can be found in the associated Methodology documents:

[Domestic energy prices: data sources and methodology](#)

[Industrial price statistics: data sources and methodologies](#)

[International comparisons: data sources and methodologies](#)

[Road fuel price statistics: data sources and methodologies](#)

From March 2020, bills data have been presented with fixed annual consumption levels of 13,600 kWh for gas and 3,600 kWh for standard electricity (5,100 kWh for Economy 7 electricity) to allow comparisons over time of **actual price** changes, keeping change in consumption constant.

The new consumption levels were calculated using the [same methodology](#) as previously used in 2014. This takes weather adjusted consumption data for the United Kingdom from the [Digest of UK Energy Statistics \(DUKES\)](#) and calculates an average from this using customer numbers from the [Energy Consumption in the UK \(ECUK\)](#) publication.

Revisions policy

The Department's [statistical revisions policy](#) sets out the revisions policy for these statistics, which has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

Related publications

Energy Trends

Energy Trends contains quarterly data on production and consumption of overall energy and of the individual fuels in the United Kingdom. Also includes data on foreign trade in fuels.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends

Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES)

Also available from The Stationery Office and can be ordered through Government Bookshops. DUKES contains annual data on production and consumption of overall energy and of the individual fuels in the United Kingdom. Also includes a commentary covering all the major aspects of energy and gives a comprehensive picture of energy production and use over the last five years with key series taken back to 1970.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes

UK Energy in Brief

An annual publication summarising the latest statistics on energy production, consumption and prices in the United Kingdom. The figures are taken from the 'Digest of UK Energy Statistics'. Available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-energy-in-brief

Fuel Poverty Statistics

An annual publication outlining the number of households living in fuel poverty in England, with additional analysis of the composition of the fuel poor group and future projections of the number of households in fuel poverty. Available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics

Sub-National Energy Consumption Statistics

Sub-National data are produced by the Department to emphasise the importance of local and regional decision making for energy policy in delivering several national energy policy objectives. Data is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regional-energy-data-guidance-note>

National Energy Efficiency Data-framework (NEED)

The Department has constructed a National Energy Efficiency Data-framework (NEED) to enable detailed statistical analysis of energy efficiency. The data framework matches the gas and electricity consumption data collected for sub-national energy consumption statistics and records of energy efficiency measures in the Home Energy Efficiency Database (HEED) run by the Energy Saving Trust (EST), as well as typographic data about dwellings and households.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-energy-efficiency-data-need-framework

Household Energy Efficiency

The Department publishes a range of information relating to the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Green Deal (GD). The headline release presents monthly updates of ECO measures and quarterly updates of in-depth ECO statistics, carbon savings and the Green Deal schemes. The detailed report presents annual updates on in-depth Green Deal statistics and insulation levels. Data is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics

UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics

Emissions data are produced by the Department to show progress against the UK's goals, both international and domestic, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics

UK Energy and CO2 emissions projections

The Updated Energy Projections (UEP) are published annually by the Department. They provide updated projections and analysis of energy use and carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. The UEP exercise incorporates all firm environmental policy measures and is based on updated assumptions consistent with the most recent UK Budget announcements. The latest report is available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-and-emissions-projections

Policy publications

The policies that the Department works on and the associated documentation can be found on the GOV.UK site [here](#).

The energy statistics section is here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero/about/statistics

The Energy White Paper

On 14 December 2020, the Energy White Paper was published, setting out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future>

Further information

Uses of these statistics

The data associated with this release is used in internal analysis to help form policy decisions and is also used by industry and the academic community to monitor trends in the prices market.

The department has an obligation to provide processed data to the [International Energy Association \(IEA\)](#). The data within and associated with this publication are also used to answer Parliamentary questions and Freedom of Information requests.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet their needs.

Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed, please direct any suggestions about changes to the content or scope of this publication to the energyprices.stats@energysecurity.gov.uk mailbox.

The statement on [statistical public engagement and data standards](#) sets out the Department's commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics designation

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

Information in this release undergoes the level of quality checks expected of a [National Statistics](#) release. The full detail of the measure we take are in the associated [methodology documents](#).

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in September 2018 following a [compliance check](#) by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The statistics last underwent a [full assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) in June 2014.

Pre-release access to statistics

Some ministers and officials receive access to some key figures within these statistics up to 24 hours before release.

Details of the arrangements for doing this and a list of the ministers and officials that receive pre-release access to these statistics can be found in the [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero statement of compliance](#) with the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008.

Contact

Quarterly Energy Prices is prepared by the Energy Prices analysis team in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Responsible Statistician for this release

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The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero **media enquiries desk** can be reached on 020 7215 1000 or newsdesk@energysecurity.gov.uk

More information on the Department's energy publications are available on the GOV.UK page here: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero/about/statistics



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