



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change



# Quarterly Energy Prices March 2016

31 March 2016

This document is available in large print, audio and braille on request. Please e-mail [correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk) with the version you require.

© Crown copyright 2016

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence.

To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [energy.stats@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:energy.stats@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

This document is also available from our website at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices)

# Contents

<b>CONTACT POINTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Section 1 – Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Section 2 – Domestic Prices</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<i>Retail price of fuels for the domestic sector</i> .....	5
<i>Domestic electricity and gas bills</i> .....	6
<i>Payment methods</i> .....	7
<i>Regional variation of payment methods - Electricity</i> .....	9
<i>Regional variation of payment methods - Gas</i> .....	9
<i>Domestic energy competition</i> .....	10
<i>Fixed Tariffs</i> .....	11
<i>Regional competition - Electricity</i> .....	12
<i>Regional competition - Gas</i> .....	13
<i>Variation in energy competition between payment methods</i> .....	14
<i>Transfer statistics</i> .....	14
<b>Section 3 – Industrial Prices</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<i>Energy prices in the manufacturing sector</i> .....	16
<i>Average prices of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers</i> .....	18
<i>Fuel price indices for the industrial sector</i> .....	19
<i>Gas and electricity prices for the non-domestic sector in the UK</i> .....	20
<b>Section 4 – Oil and Petroleum Product Prices</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<i>Retail prices of petroleum prices</i> .....	22
<i>Crude oil prices</i> .....	24
<b>Section 5 – International Comparisons</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<i>Unleaded petrol and Diesel prices</i> .....	26
<i>Premium unleaded petrol prices</i> .....	26
<i>Diesel prices</i> .....	27
<i>Industrial gas and electricity prices</i> .....	28
<i>Industrial electricity prices</i> .....	28
<i>Industrial gas prices</i> .....	30
<i>Domestic electricity and gas prices</i> .....	31
<i>Domestic electricity prices</i> .....	31
<i>Domestic gas prices</i> .....	32
<b>List of Charts</b> .....	<b>33</b>

## CONTACT POINTS

This publication, including historical data, is available on the internet at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/quarterly-energy-prices](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/quarterly-energy-prices)

Please direct any suggestions about changes to the content or scope of this publication to Jo Marvin ([Jo.Marvin@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Marvin@decc.gsi.gov.uk)).

Quarterly Energy Prices is prepared by the Energy Prices Analysis team in DECC.

### Household Energy Prices

Liz Vincent                      0300 068 5162                      [Elizabeth.Vincent@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Vincent@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

### Industrial Energy Prices and Petrol Prices

Jo Marvin                              0300 068 5049                      [Jo.Marvin@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Marvin@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

### International Energy Prices

Matthew Gardner                      0300 068 5057                      [Matthew.Gardner@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Gardner@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

More information on DECC energy publications is available on the DECC website [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/about/statistics)

### Other Useful websites

Ofgem	<a href="http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/">www.ofgem.gov.uk/</a>
DEFRA	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs</a>
HM Revenue and Customs	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs</a>
International Energy Agency	<a href="http://www.iea.org">www.iea.org</a>
Eurostat	<a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/">www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/</a>
UK Petroleum Industry Association	<a href="http://www.ukpia.com">www.ukpia.com</a>

### This is a National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the UK Statistics Authority: Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs
- are well explained and readily accessible
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

**EXPLANATORY NOTES ARE TO BE FOUND INSIDE THE BACK COVER**

## Section 1 – Introduction

Quarterly Energy Prices was first published in June 2001. Tables are available as Excel files at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/about/statistics). Monthly updates on domestic energy price indices and the prices of petroleum products are posted at the same address, as are any tables affected by changes in the GDP deflator.

In this issue there are final 2015 annual domestic gas and electricity bills, and Q4 2015 and annual 2015 prices for industrial consumers and major power producers. There is also a comparison of prices in the IEA with those in the UK for 2014, sourced from IEA data. The petroleum product prices are provisional March 2016 and final annual 2015, whilst the international unleaded petrol and diesel prices are for February 2016.

This issue also includes analyses of electricity and gas prices in the EU 15 and EU 28 countries compared to those in the UK, by size of consumer. These tables are based upon data published by Eurostat, the EU statistical office, in their 'Statistics in Focus' series. From January 2008, prices are for the 6-month periods from January – June and July – December for each year. The tables cover the 6-month periods from July – December 2012 to July – December 2015.

The next issue, published online on 30 June 2016, will present Q1 2016 energy prices for the manufacturing sector, industrial and domestic fuel price indices, and the price of fuels for major power producers. The petroleum product prices table will have provisional prices for June 2016, and there will be international petrol and diesel prices as at May 2016.

Data in the tables are mainly in cash prices. However, price comparisons (unless otherwise stated) refer to movements in data in real terms. These are prices 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 in the whole economy and therefore is applicable consistently to domestic and industrial prices.

For most fuels there is a difference in the prices paid by smaller consumers, typically households, and those paid by larger consumers, usually those in the industrial sector. Indeed, there are differences in prices between large and small industrial users. In a competitive energy market, larger consumers can negotiate lower prices. A household's energy demands may be more variable through the day and year (and therefore higher in peak price times) than those of industrial customers who use energy for continuous processes or can load manage. For these reasons the tables show prices separately for domestic and industrial consumers. Although no prices are given for commercial consumers, prices for the domestic sector should be fairly close to those for smaller commercial consumers and industrial prices should provide a reasonable proxy for larger customers in the commercial sector. The source of all data is the Department of Energy and Climate Change unless otherwise stated.

Please note: the hyperlinks to tables within this document will open the most recently published version of a table. If you require a previously published version of any table please contact Jo Marvin, [Jo.Marvin@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Marvin@decc.gsi.gov.uk), tel: 0300 068 5049.)

**The main points in this edition are presented below:**

**Domestic**

- The price paid for domestic fuels in real terms has fallen by 4.1 per cent in the year to Q4 2015. Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, real terms prices for domestic electricity fell by 0.3 per cent and domestic gas prices fell by 6.5 per cent.
- Average 2015 combined standard electricity and gas bills have fallen by £46 (3.4 per cent) to £1,298.
- The average 2015 standard electricity bill across all payment types has decreased by £8 (1.4 per cent) since 2014, to £584. Meanwhile, the average 2015 gas bill across all payment types has decreased by £38 (5.1 per cent) since 2014, to £714. These bills are based on standard consumptions of 3,800 kWh per year for electricity and 15,000 kWh per year for gas.
- The annual number of domestic supplier switches increased in 2015 compared to 2014. The total number of electricity transfers increased by 11.1 per cent on 2014. Gas transfers increased by 18.7 per cent in 2015 compared to the previous year. For quarterly transfers in Q4 2015, the number of electricity transfers was 12.6 per cent higher than Q4 2014, while the number of gas transfers was 12.7 per cent higher than Q4 2014.

**Industrial**

- Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, average industrial prices in real terms including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) fell by 17 per cent for gas and by 26 per cent for heavy fuel oil, whilst prices for coal and electricity were broadly unchanged.
- Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, the price of coal used for electricity generation decreased by 21 per cent in cash terms whilst the price of gas decreased by 31 per cent.

**Oil and petroleum product prices**

- The price of petrol in March 2016 is 8.4 per cent (9.3 pence) lower than a year ago, at 101.7 pence per litre, whilst diesel is 13 per cent (16 pence) lower at 102.5 pence per litre. Petrol prices are around 40 pence lower than their peak in April 2012 whilst diesel prices are around 45 pence lower
- The price of crude oil purchased by UK refineries in February 2016 was 38 per cent lower than a year ago. The price in March was around \$40 per barrel, an increase on prices in January and February but considerably below the period between February 2011 and September 2014 when prices were above \$100 per barrel.

**International**

- In February 2016 the UK price for petrol was the sixth highest in the EU 15 at 101.4 pence per litre, whilst the UK price for diesel was the highest in the EU 15 at 101.0 pence per litre.
- For July to December 2015, UK industrial electricity prices for medium consumers including tax were the second highest in the EU 15, whilst industrial gas prices for medium consumers including tax were the fifth lowest in the EU 15.
- For July to December 2015, UK domestic electricity prices for medium consumers including tax were the seventh lowest in the EU 15, whilst domestic gas prices for medium consumers including tax were the fourth lowest in the EU 15.

## Section 2 – Domestic Prices

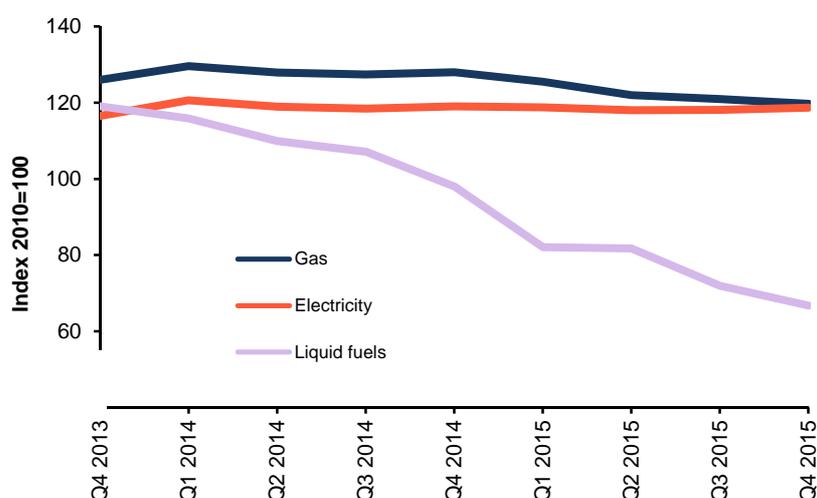
### Highlights

- The price paid for domestic fuels in real terms has fallen by 4.1 per cent in the year to Q4 2015. Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, real terms prices for domestic electricity fell by 0.3 per cent and domestic gas prices fell by 6.5 per cent.
- Average 2015 combined standard electricity and gas bills have fallen by £46 (3.4 per cent) to £1,298.
- The average 2015 standard electricity bill across all payment types has decreased by £8 (1.4 per cent) since 2014, to £584. Meanwhile, the average 2015 gas bill across all payment types has decreased by £38 (5.1 per cent) since 2014, to £714. These bills are based on standard consumptions of 3,800 kWh per year for electricity and 15,000 kWh per year for gas.
- The fall in gas bills is primarily due to decreases in prices by all major suppliers at the start of 2015.
- The number of domestic supplier switches increased in 2015 compared to 2014. The total number of electricity transfers increased by 11.1 per cent on 2014. Gas transfers increased by 18.7 per cent in 2015 compared to the previous year. In Q4 2015, the number of electricity transfers was 12.6 per cent higher than Q4 2014. The number of gas transfers was 12.7 per cent higher than Q4 2014.

### Retail price of fuels for the domestic sector

In terms of domestic fuel price indices, the price for all domestic fuels has fallen by 4.1 per cent in Q4 2015 compared to Q4 2014. As shown in Chart 1, in real terms domestic electricity fell by 0.3 per cent, gas fell by 6.5 per cent, and liquid fuels fell by 32 per cent, driven by falls in the price of crude oil. Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, motor fuel and oil prices, including VAT, fell 13 per cent in real terms. The price of solid fuels fell by 0.6 per cent in real terms between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015.

**Chart 1 Fuel price indices in the domestic sector<sup>(1)</sup> - quarterly**



Source: ONS, Consumer prices index

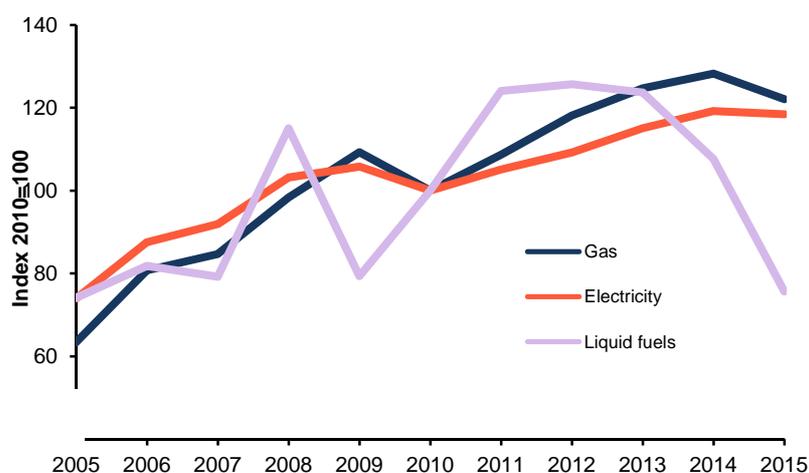
<sup>(1)</sup> Data in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the GDP (market prices) deflator.

## Domestic prices

UK wholesale gas prices have been increasing since the early 2000's, due to upward pressure on prices in Europe and the decline of UK Continental Shelf gas production, although prices have fallen back since the start of 2014. Electricity prices have generally been on a rising trend, as gas is an important part of the UK generation mix, but also as a result of higher coal prices, wholesale electricity prices rising from unsustainably low levels, and the introduction of the EU Emissions Trading scheme in 2005.

Liquid fuel (heating oil) prices typically follow crude oil prices. Between 2004 and 2008 prices increased strongly, following crude oil price rises, although they began to decrease after a peak in mid-2008. More recently, liquid fuels prices increased to reach a new high in real terms in 2012, but in 2013 prices fell slightly in real terms and in 2014 and 2015 they have fallen more significantly. Motor fuel prices also follow crude oil prices, with variations according to Budget increases in the duty payable on petrol and diesel and changes to the rate of VAT.

**Chart 2 Fuel price indices in the domestic sector<sup>(1)</sup> - annual**



Source: ONS, Consumer prices index

<sup>(1)</sup> Data in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the GDP (market prices) deflator.

Link to tables:

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

[Table 2.1.2: Consumer prices index: fuel components in the UK relative to GDP deflator](#)

[Table 2.1.3: Consumer prices index: fuel components, monthly figures](#)

## Domestic electricity and gas bills

DECC estimates for bills are based on fixed annual consumption levels of 15,000kWh for gas and 3,800kWh for electricity. An article examining bills based on actual annual consumption was published in March 2016's Energy Trends<sup>1</sup>. Using an average fixed consumption enables comparisons over time of the effects of actual price changes to be made, whilst excluding any change in consumption. Actual average domestic consumption of both gas and electricity varies from year to year due to changes in weather and energy efficiency improvements.

All six of the major domestic energy suppliers decreased gas prices at the beginning of 2015 reflecting falls in wholesale gas prices. One of these suppliers again reduced gas prices in the middle of the year. There were no price changes from the six major domestic energy suppliers for

<sup>1</sup> See March 2016 Energy Trends article for more details: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends-articles](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends-articles)

## Domestic prices

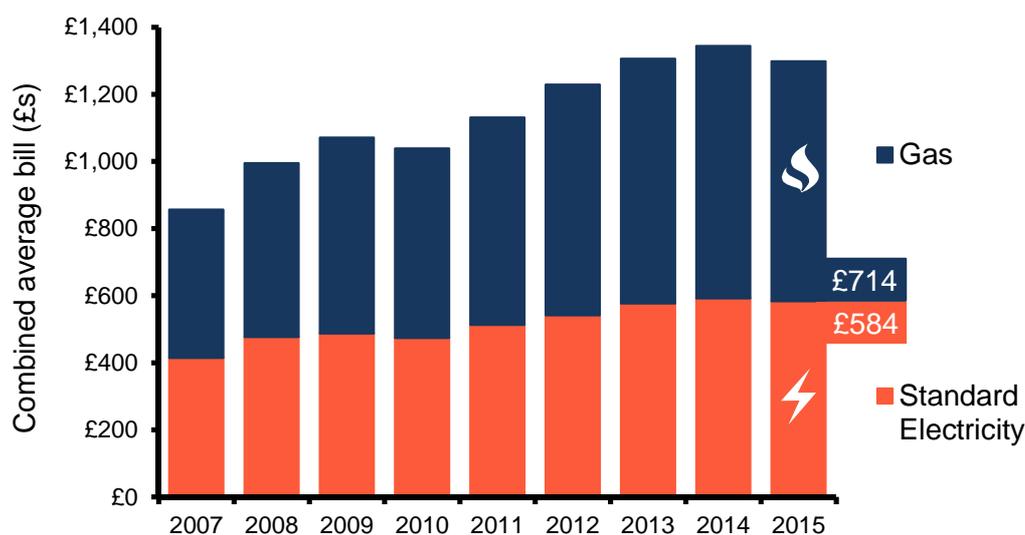
electricity customers in 2015. Overall, the changes reflect an average decrease in gas prices of around 5 per cent while electricity prices fell marginally on 2014 as prices of fixed deals fell. Average electricity and gas bills in 2015 were lower than 2014 bills, for gas this was mainly due to these price falls implemented at the beginning of 2015. The £12 electricity rebate received by customers in Great Britain in 2015 was also provided in 2014.

Chart 3 shows average standard domestic energy bills, in cash terms. Combined gas and electricity bills have decreased by £46 (3.4 per cent) between 2014 and 2015, to £1,298. Average standard electricity bills in 2015 decreased by £8 (to £584), and average gas bills decreased by £38 (to £714). Combined bills have been consistently rising since 2002, with the exception of a 3 per cent fall in 2010. Between 2010 and 2015, energy bills have increased, up by 25 per cent.

### Change in average annual bills 2015 compared to 2014

	2014	2015	Change	Percentage Change
<b>Standard Electricity</b>	£592	£584	£8	-1.4%
<b>Gas</b>	£752	£714	£38	-5.1%
<b>Combined</b>	£1,344	£1,298	£46	-3.4%

### Chart 3 Average standard electricity and gas bills



Link to tables:

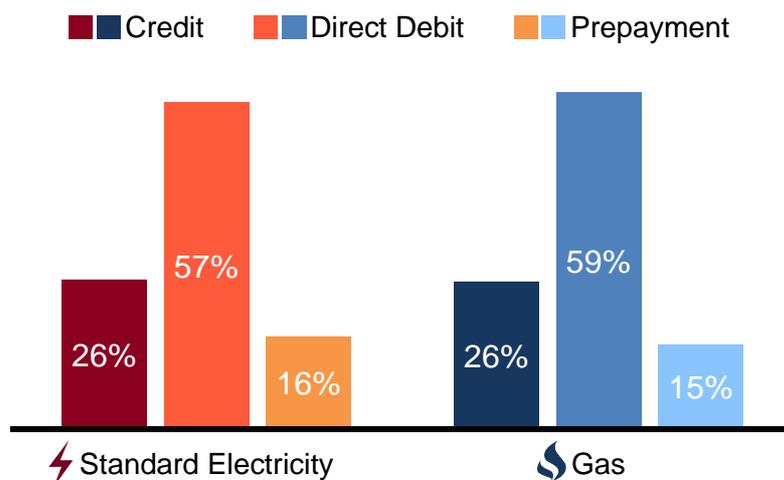
[Table 2.2.1: Average annual domestic electricity bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

[Table 2.3.1: Average annual domestic gas bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

## Payment methods

At the end of December 2015, the majority of standard electricity customers in the United Kingdom (UK) and gas customers in Great Britain (GB) paid by direct debit. Chart 4 shows the proportion of customers that use each of the three payment methods for both gas and standard electricity. Over time the percentage of customers on direct debit has increased whereas the percentage of customers on who pay on receipt of their bill (credit) has decreased.

**Chart 4 Proportion of customers on each payment type**

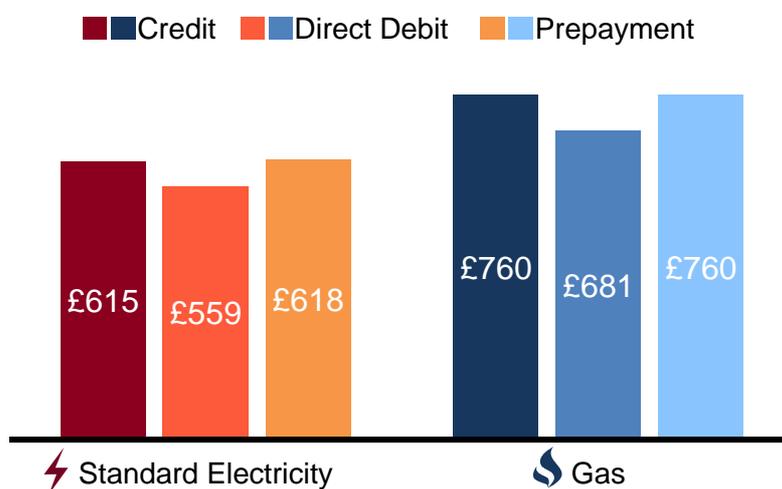


In 2015 the average annual bill<sup>1</sup> was cheapest for customers paying by direct debit, with an average bill of £559 for standard electricity customers in the UK and £681 for gas customers in GB, as shown in Chart 5.

**Average annual bills 2015 by payment method<sup>2</sup>**

	Credit	Direct Debit	Pre-Payment	Overall
Standard Electricity	£615	£559	£618	£584
Gas	£760	£681	£760	£714
Combined	£1,376	£1,240	£1,378	£1,298

**Chart 5 Average bills on each payment type**



Link to tables:

[Table 2.2.1: Average annual domestic electricity bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

[Table 2.3.1: Average annual domestic gas bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

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

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

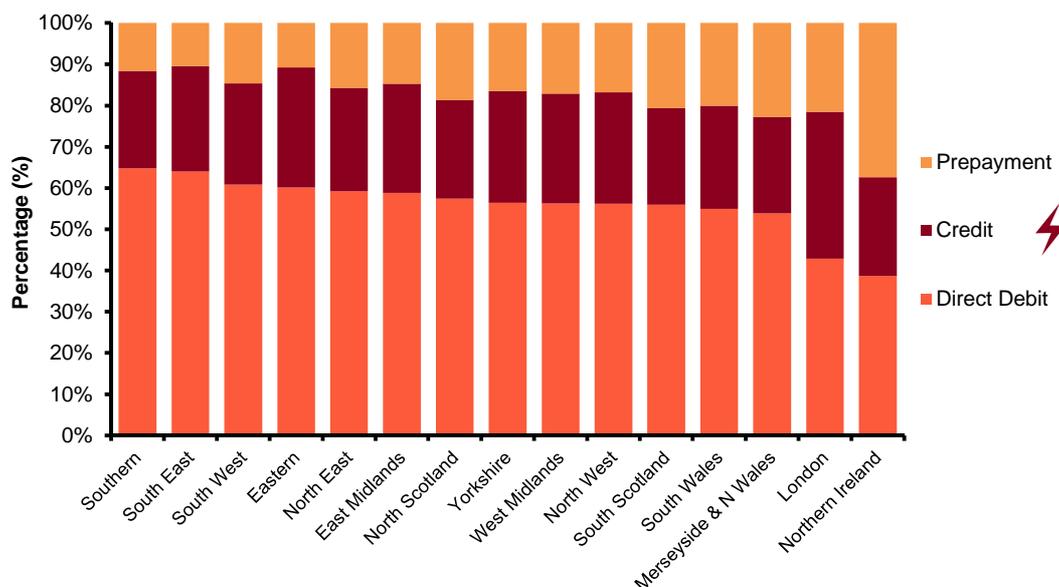
<sup>1</sup> Based on a fixed consumption of 15,000kWh for gas and 3,800kWh for electricity

<sup>2</sup> Standard electricity and gas bills may not add up exactly to the combined bill as they have been calculated on non-rounded figures.

## Regional variation of payment methods - Electricity

The proportion of customers by the different payment methods varies by region. For standard electricity, direct debit is the most popular payment method in all regions. Northern Ireland though has a broadly similar proportion of customers who pay by pre-payment as do direct debit. As Chart 6 shows, the Southern region had the highest proportion of customers paying by direct debit, at 65 per cent. The London region has the highest percentage of standard credit customers, with 35 per cent using this payment method and just 43 per cent using direct debit, which is the second lowest rate in the UK.

**Chart 6 Regional payment methods for Standard electricity**



Link to tables:

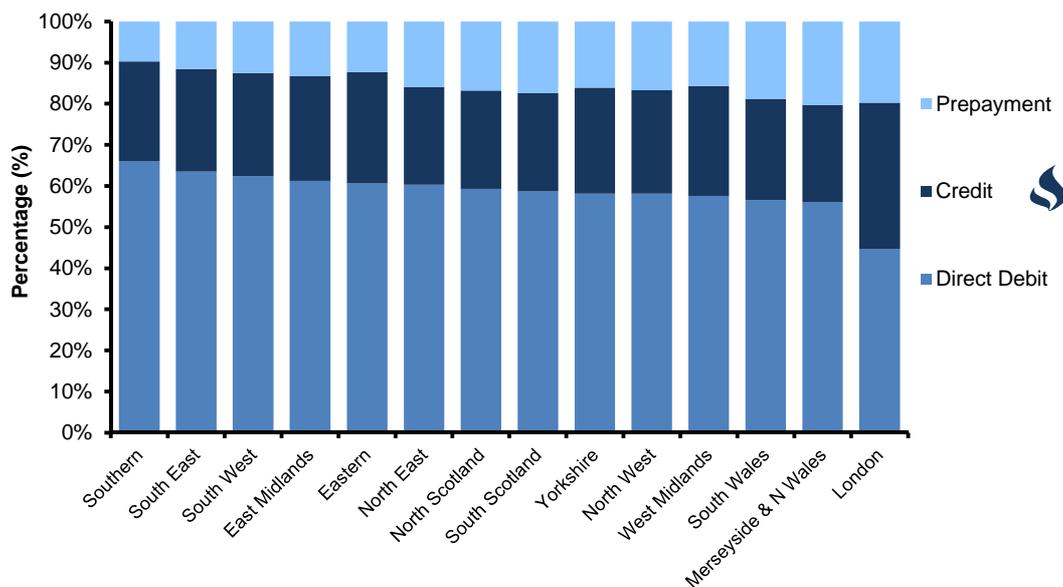
[Table 2.4.2: Regional variation of payment method for standard electricity](#)

## Regional variation of payment methods - Gas

Regional variation in payment method for gas is similar to that of standard electricity with direct debit used by the majority of customers in most regions. As shown in Chart 7, the Southern region of England again had the highest proportion of gas customers paying by direct debit, at 66 per cent. The London region had the lowest percentage paying by direct debit, at 45 per cent and the highest percentage of gas standard credit customers, with 36 per cent. London and Merseyside and North Wales had the joint highest percentage of gas pre-payment customers in GB, at 20 per cent.

## Domestic prices

### Chart 7 Regional payment methods for gas



Link to tables:

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

## Domestic energy competition

Prior to the privatisation of the GB energy market, all energy customers were supplied by their regional Electricity and Gas boards. With privatisation these boards became the commercial home suppliers for each region to which all customers in that region belonged before the market opened up to competition. The first trial in competitive gas supply started in April 1996 in South West England, with all customers able to choose their gas supplier by May 1998. Competition in domestic electricity supply began on 14 September 1998 with 750,000 consumers in four areas, and was gradually extended to all consumers in Great Britain by 24 May 1999. In Northern Ireland the market is now beginning to open up to competition, after being monopolistic for many years, although two suppliers still currently supply the vast majority of the market. Gas is still not yet widely available in Northern Ireland, although the number of customers with access to the gas grid is increasing.

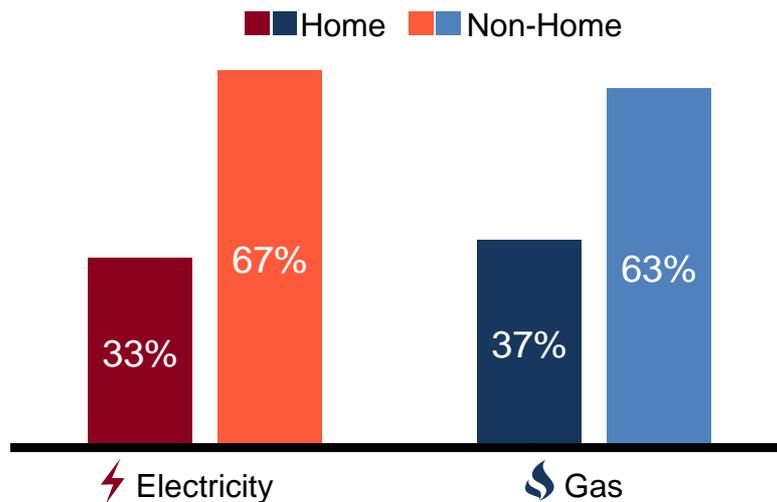
At the end of December 2015, DECC estimates that 18.5 million (67 per cent of) domestic electricity<sup>1</sup> customers and 14.4 million (63 per cent of) domestic gas customers in Great Britain<sup>2</sup> had transferred away from their original home supplier, the firm who had supplied that region before the energy market opened up to competition (see Chart 8).

<sup>1</sup> Includes both standard electricity and Economy 7 electricity.

<sup>2</sup> Competition is still limited in scope for domestic customers in Northern Ireland, and so this country has been excluded from this analysis.

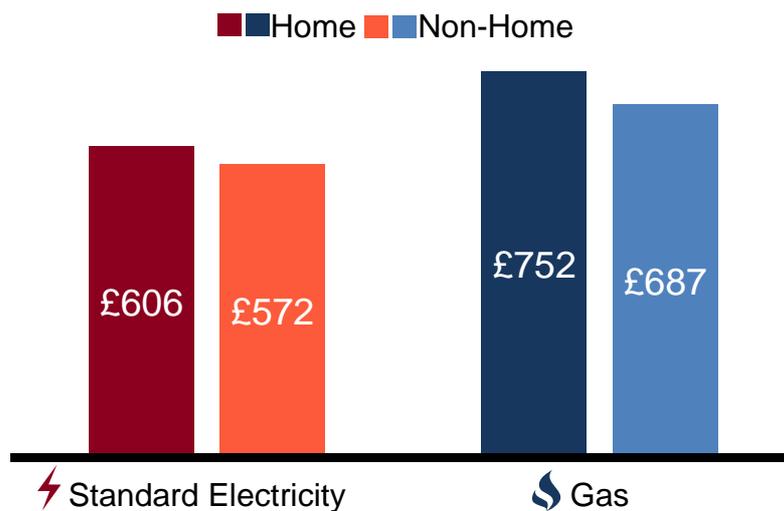
## Domestic prices

**Chart 8 Proportion of customers with their original home supplier for electricity and gas in GB**



As can be seen in Chart 9, the average annual bill based on fixed consumption<sup>1</sup> for gas and electricity is lower for customers with non-home suppliers.

**Chart 9 Average Standard Electricity and Gas bills for home and non-home suppliers in GB**



## Fixed Tariffs

At the end of December 2015, the majority of standard electricity customers in the United Kingdom (UK) and gas customers in Great Britain (GB) on all payment methods were on variable tariffs, however the percentage of customers on fixed tariffs has increased greatly in recent years. A variable tariff is defined as one where the price is subject to change at any point. A fixed tariff<sup>2</sup> is where the price has been set for a defined period of time.

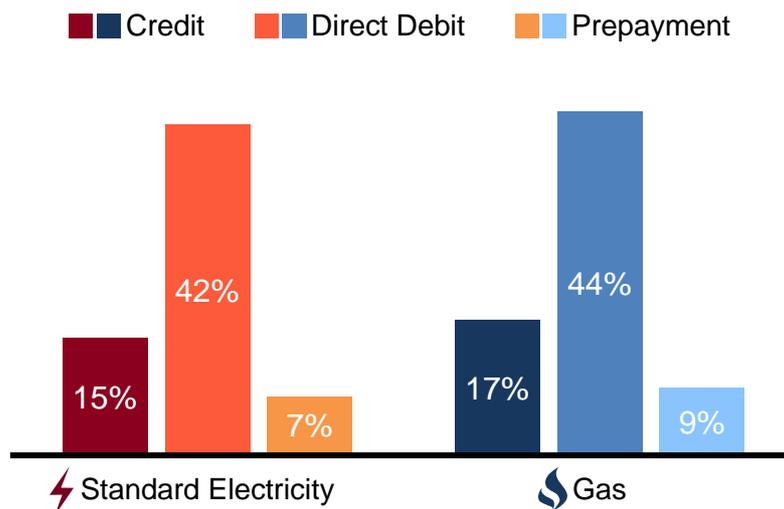
<sup>1</sup> 15,000kWh for gas and 3,800kWh for electricity

<sup>2</sup> The method used to determine a fixed tariff is dependent on the tariff name and DECC's research of tariffs. It is therefore possible that some fixed tariffs have not been identified and may well have been incorrectly classified as a variable tariff.

## Domestic prices

Around a third of all standard electricity and gas customers were on fixed tariffs at the end of December 2015. This is an increase from a quarter of all customers in December 2014. Direct Debit customers are most likely to be on fixed tariffs with over 40 per cent of these customers on a fixed deal. This data and Chart 10 below reflects data from the DECC's domestic fuel's inquiry only and therefore DECC expect this under-estimates the proportion of customers on fixed tariffs. DECC expects that smaller suppliers will have a higher proportion of customers on fixed tariffs than has been captured here.

**Chart 10 Proportion of customers on fixed tariffs by payment type**



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](#)

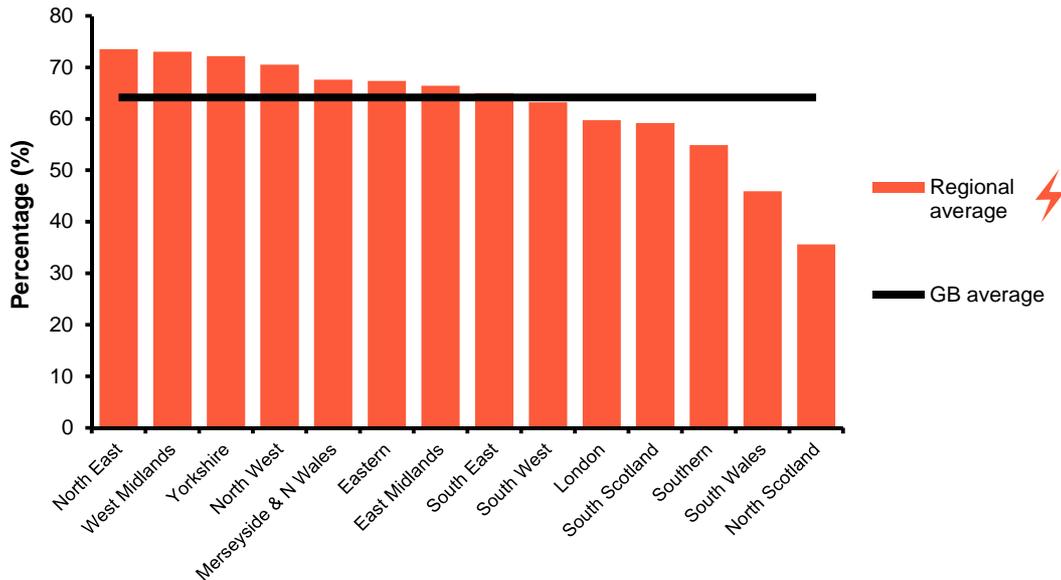
## Regional competition - Electricity

Chart 11 and Tables 2.4 in the annex reflect data from the big 6 energy suppliers and therefore under-estimate the proportion of customers who have moved away their home supplier. DECC is considering options to improve the accuracy of these figures.

Overall, customers in North Scotland were the least likely to have moved, with around 64 per cent still with their home supplier, whereas customers in the North East were most likely to have moved with only around 26 per cent with their home supplier.

## Domestic prices

### Chart 11 Percentage electricity customers with a non-home supplier

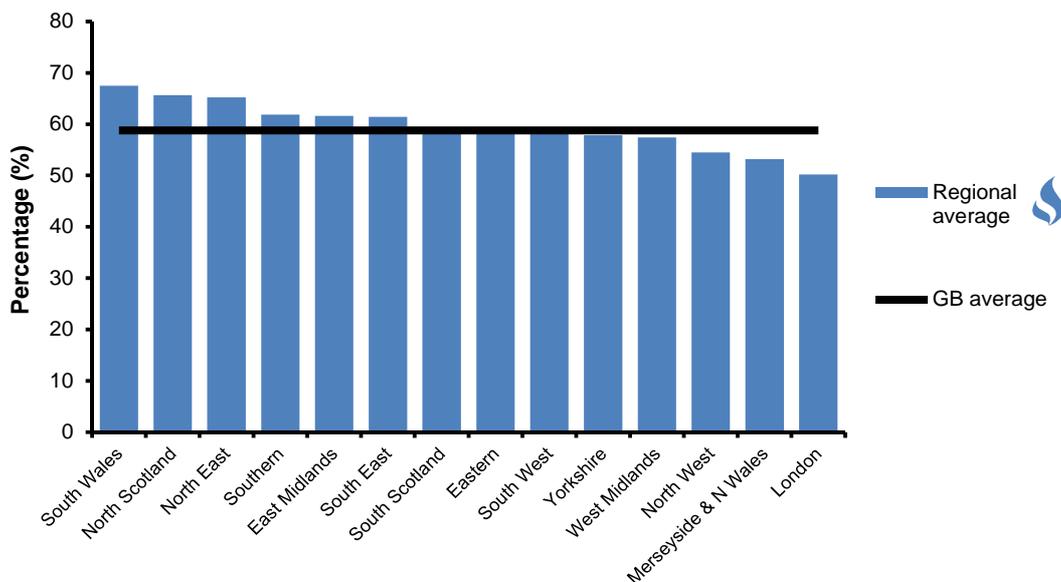


## Regional competition - Gas

As with electricity, Chart 12 and Tables 2.5 reflect big 6 data, therefore under-estimating the proportion of customers who have moved away their home supplier.

Overall, customers in the London region were the least likely to have moved, with around 50 per cent still with their home supplier, whereas customers in South Wales were the most likely to have moved with only around 33 per cent still with their home supplier.

### Chart 12 Percentage of gas customers with a non-home supplier



## Domestic prices

### Variation in energy competition between payment methods

Direct debit customers were most likely to have moved, with 68 per cent of electricity customers and 66 per cent of gas customers no longer with their home supplier. Standard credit customers were the least likely to have moved, with 58 per cent of electricity customers and 45 per cent of gas customers supplied by a non-home supplier.

Average annual bills are cheapest for customers with a non-home supplier rather than customers with their original home suppliers; across both types of supplier direct debit was the cheapest payment method. The full breakdown of the average annual bills for gas and standard electricity for each payment method split by home and non-home supplier for 2015 is shown in the table below. For previous years' data see tables 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 in the annex.

#### Average annual bills by payment method and supplier type for 2015

	Standard Credit		Direct Debit		Prepayment		Overall	
	Home	Non-Home	Home	Non-Home	Home	Non-Home	Home	Non-Home
Standard Electricity	£636	£601	£576	£551	£638	£606	£606	£572
Gas	£780	£737	£722	£659	£778	£746	£752	£687
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,416</b>	<b>£1,338</b>	<b>£1,298</b>	<b>£1,210</b>	<b>£1,416</b>	<b>£1,352</b>	<b>£1,358</b>	<b>£1,259</b>

Link to tables:

[Table 2.2.1: Average annual domestic electricity bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

[Table 2.3.1: Average annual domestic gas bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

[Table 2.4.1: Percentage of domestic electricity customers by region by supplier type](#)

[Table 2.5.1: Percentage of domestic gas customers by region by supplier type](#)

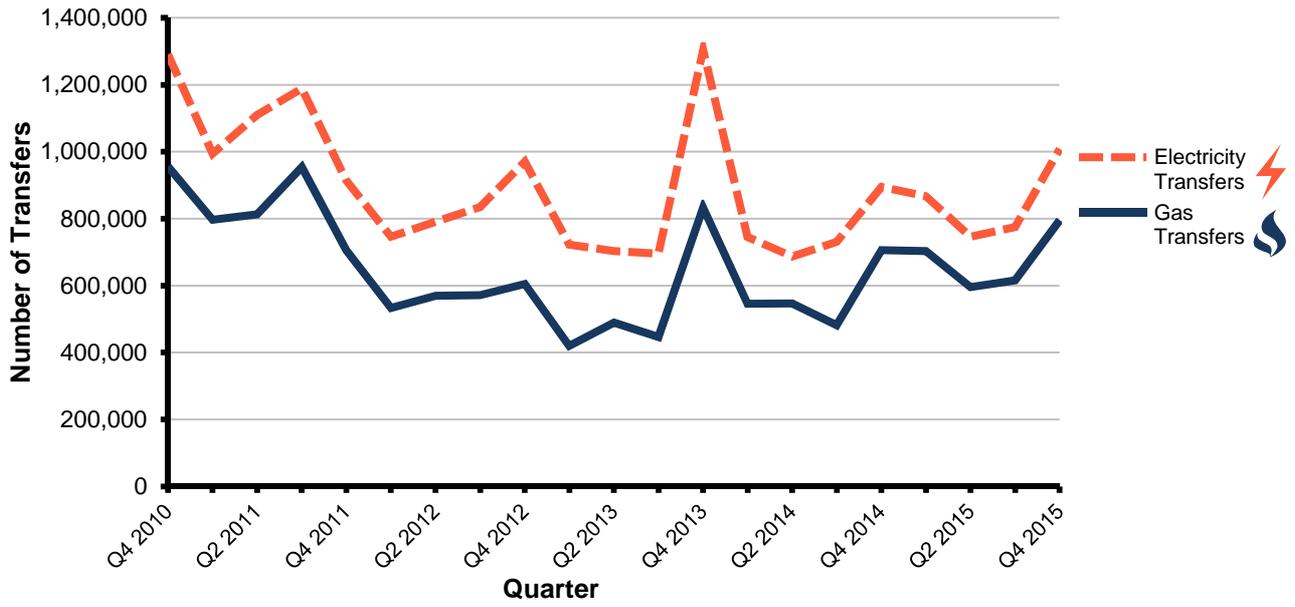
### Transfer statistics

Ofgem provide DECC with the number of domestic customers that have switched supplier for both electricity and gas. For electricity, this covers the whole domestic market. Formally gas switching levels only covered the main six suppliers however from January 2014 Ofgem provided switching levels for the whole market. For this reason published gas transfers will be lower before Q1 2014 compared to more recent quarters.

The number of transfers made within the domestic electricity market increased by 12.6 per cent between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, with an estimated 1,008,000 electricity transfers being made in Q4 2015 compared to 895,000 in the same period in 2014 as seen in Chart 13. Since Q4 2014 gas transfers have increased by 12.7 per cent to 796,000 transfers in Q4 2015 compared with 706,000 transfers in the same period last year. For both electricity and gas, these transfers represent around 3.6 per cent of customers in the domestic market.

For 2015 as a whole, the total number of electricity transfers increased by 11.1 per cent on 2014, with an estimated 3,396,000 transfers in 2015, up from 3,058,000 in 2014. The number of gas transfers for 2015 increased by 18.7 per cent on 2014, to an estimated 2,709,000 transfers in 2015, compared with 2,282,000 in 2014.

Chart 13 Domestic gas and electricity transfers



Link to tables:

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

## Section 3 – Industrial Prices

### Highlights

- Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, average industrial prices in real terms including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) fell by 17 per cent for gas and by 26 per cent for heavy fuel oil, whilst prices for coal and electricity were broadly unchanged.
- Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, the price of coal used for electricity generation decreased by 21 per cent in cash terms whilst the price of gas decreased by 31 per cent.

### Notes

Prices presented in this section will vary depending on sectoral coverage (manufacturing industry, all industry, or non-domestic consumers) and consumption levels. The price of a fuel may move to a different degree, or even in a different direction, depending on the sectors and/or consumption sizebands being compared. Changes in price may also vary depending on the time period used, i.e. changes in annual average prices may be different to changes in price between quarters a year apart.

These factors help to explain differences between prices. As an example, average prices in Tables 3.1.1 – 3.1.4, which covers manufacturing industry, tend to be weighted more towards the price paid by large consumers, whereas for Tables 3.4.1 & 3.4.2, covering all non-domestic consumers, average prices tend to be weighted more towards smaller consumers. Larger consumers may be more dependent on wholesale spot prices, and therefore more vulnerable to price spikes, whereas smaller consumers tend to be on more stable contracts.

Price indices in Table 3.3.1 aim to be reflective of all industrial users and are quoted in the key points on page 4.

### Energy prices in the manufacturing sector

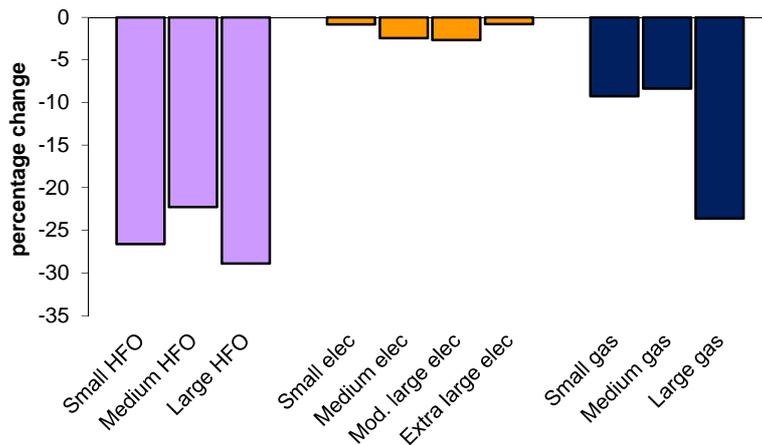
Prices of fuels for the manufacturing sector, excluding CCL, for various sizebands of consumer are presented in Tables 3.1.1 to 3.1.4. Prices tend to vary by consumption, reflecting the bargaining position of the larger users and factors such as length of contracts and the relative (to size) impact of crude prices on fuel prices.

Prices of most fuels broadly follow the price of crude oil, which, aside from a significant fall in 2009, was on an upward trend between 2004 and 2013. More recently, the price of crude fell slightly in 2013, by around 10 per cent in 2014, and then fell by a further 40 per cent in 2015.

Average fuel prices for electricity rose each year between 2005 and 2015 with the exception of falls in 2007 and 2010. For gas, average prices were more variable, with a rising trend interspaced with falls in individual years. For heavy fuel oil and gas oil, with the exception of 2009 prices increased each year between 2005 and 2012, but fell in 2013 and then fell more strongly in 2014 and 2015. Coal prices increased each year between 2005 and 2014 with the exception of 2009 and 2012, before falling slightly in 2015.

Recent price movements are shown in Chart 14. Compared to Q4 2014, heavy fuel oil consumers in Q4 2015 have seen prices fall by an average of 26 per cent in cash terms. Over the same period, prices paid by electricity consumers, in cash terms excluding CCL, fell by an average of 2.0 per cent. Gas consumers have seen prices, in cash terms excluding CCL, decrease by an average of 21 per cent.

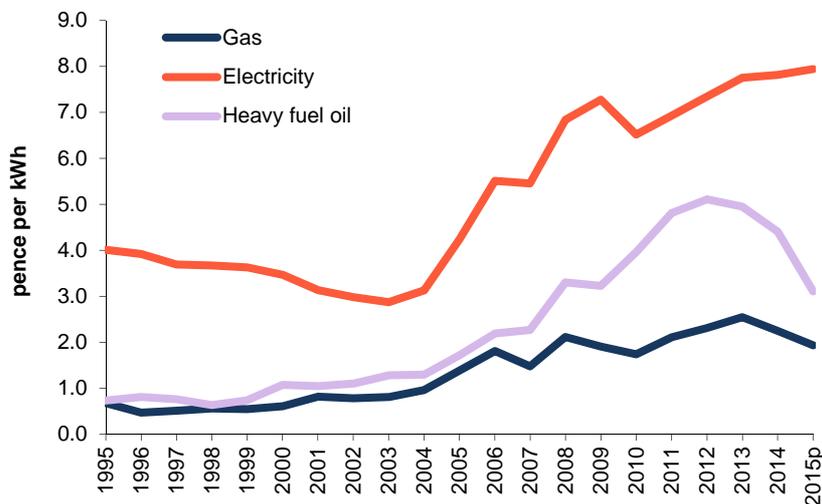
**Chart 14 Manufacturing industry price movements by size of consumer<sup>(1)</sup>**



(1) Percentage price movement between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015 for heavy fuel oil (HFO), electricity and gas, in cash terms excluding Climate Change Levy (CCL)

On an annual basis, over the past five years (2010 to 2015), average industrial electricity prices have risen by 22 per cent (13 per cent in real terms), with an increase of 1.6 per cent (1.3 per cent in real terms) in the last year. Over the same five year period average industrial gas prices have increased by 11 per cent (2.8 per cent in real terms), but decreased by 14 per cent (14 per cent in real terms) in the last year.

**Chart 15 Average annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry**



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 \(p/kWh\)](#)

## Average prices of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers

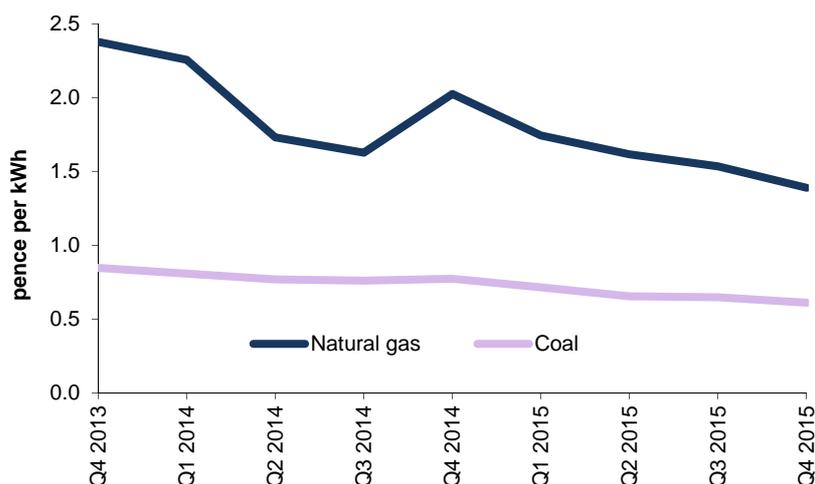
Average purchase costs of fuels used to generate electricity are presented in Table 3.2.1. Generation costs are also affected by non-fuel costs, and by the efficiency with which fuel is converted into electricity in different types of power station, therefore comparing the fuel input costs in common units does not necessarily provide a picture of full costs.

Gas wholesale prices have generally been higher and more volatile since 2008, in line with crude oil prices. Prices reached a 5-year high of 108 pence per therm in March 2013, due to a number of unplanned outages at oil and gas facilities in the North Sea and unseasonably cold weather. More recently, in the first half of 2015 gas prices ranged between 40 – 55 pence per therm, before dropping below 40 pence per therm in August due to comfortable supply and low summer demand. Prices over winter 2015/16 generally stayed under 40 pence per therm due to relatively mild temperatures, and have remained low in Q1 2016 despite a cold spell in February. A price of 40 pence per therm is 1.36 pence per kWh.

Prior to 2008, coal was the dominant fuel used in electricity generation. Between 2008 and 2010, gas overtook coal as the dominant fuel, but since 2011 the relative prices of coal and gas have meant that coal use has increased once more at the expense of gas. In 2013, gas generation fell to the lowest level since 1996 due to high gas prices, but in 2014 gas generation increased by 6 per cent due to lower wholesale gas prices between June and August and in response to lower nuclear and coal output. Provisional 2015 data shows that gas use fell by 2.1 per cent, but coal fell by 24 per cent as a result of reduced capacity and an increase in the carbon price floor.

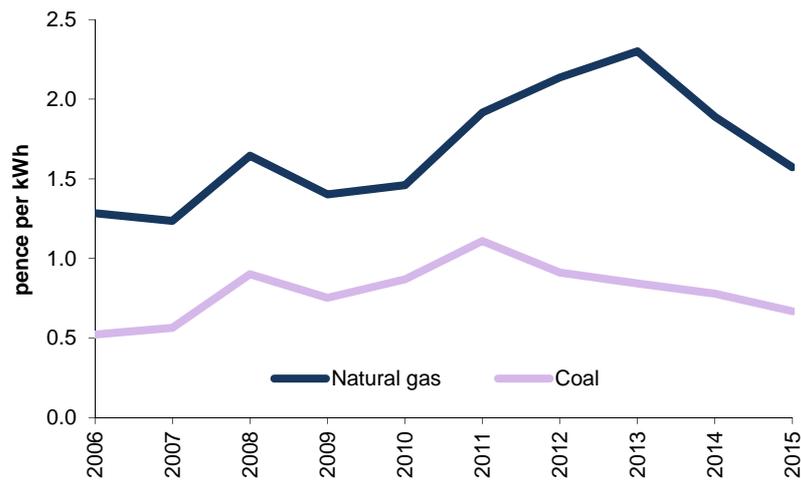
Between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 the price in cash terms of coal for power stations fell by 21 per cent whilst the price of gas fell by 31 per cent. In Q4 2015, the price of coal in p/kWh was less than half the price of gas, as shown in Chart 16. The price gap between coal and gas in p/kWh in cash terms in Q4 2015 was 0.8 pence, the lowest level since Q3 2011. Compared to Q3 2015, the price of coal in cash terms has fallen by 5.7 per cent whilst the price of gas has decreased by 9.4 per cent.

**Chart 16 Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas - quarterly**



Over the past 5 years, the annual average real terms price of natural gas used by major power producers has decreased by 0.5 per cent, whilst the price of coal has decreased by 28 per cent. In comparison, in the last year the annual average price of gas decreased by 17 per cent, whilst the price of coal fell by 14 per cent.

**Chart 17 Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas - annual**



Link to table:

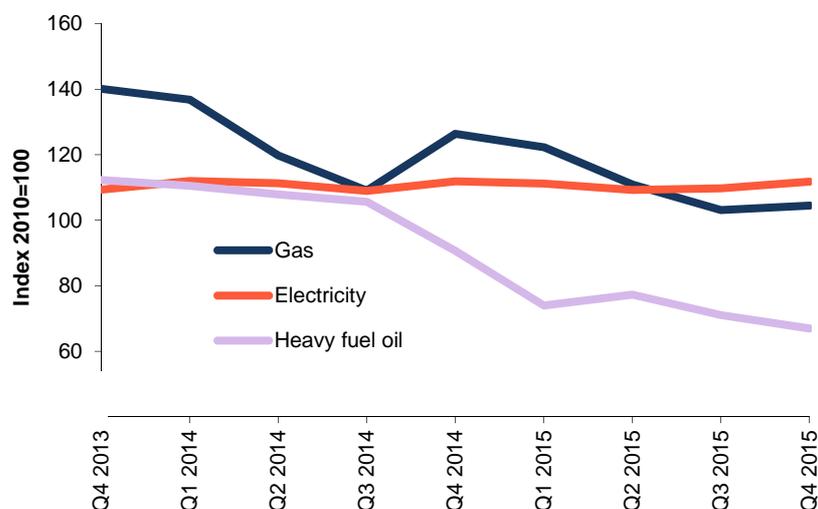
[Table 3.2.1: Average price of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers](#)

### Fuel price indices for the industrial sector

Fuel price indices, both excluding and including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) in real and cash terms, are presented in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2. Prices in real terms (including CCL) for all fuels generally stayed below 1990 levels until 2006, with some of the largest annual increases occurring between 2007 and 2008.

Average industrial gas prices including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) fell by 17 per cent in real terms between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015, whilst industrial electricity prices including CCL were broadly unchanged, as shown in Chart 18. Over the same period the price of coal decreased marginally in real terms and the price of heavy fuel oil decreased by 26 per cent. The inclusion of CCL increases the average price of coal by 6.7 per cent and the average price of electricity and gas by 3.2 and 4.2 per cent respectively in Q4 2015.

**Chart 18 Industrial fuel price indices<sup>(1)</sup> - quarterly**

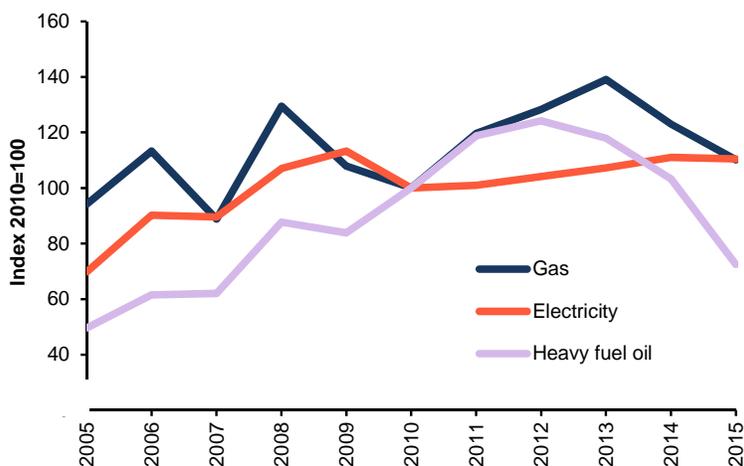


(1) Data in real terms, deflated using the GDP implied deflator at market prices. Price includes Climate Change Levy (CCL)

## Industrial Prices

The average price of heavy fuel oil in 2015 compared to 2010 has decreased by 27 per cent in real terms, with a decrease of 30 per cent in 2015. In comparison, the annual average price of gas, including CCL, has increased by 10 per cent in real terms since 2010, with a fall of 10 per cent in the latest year. The average price of electricity, including CCL, has risen by 10 per cent in real terms since 2010, and has fallen marginally in the latest year.

**Chart 19 Industrial fuel price indices<sup>(1)</sup> - annual**



(1) Data in real terms, deflated using the GDP implied deflator at market prices. Price includes Climate Change Levy (CCL)

Link to table:

[Table 3.3.1 & 3.3.2: Fuel price indices for the industrial sector](#)

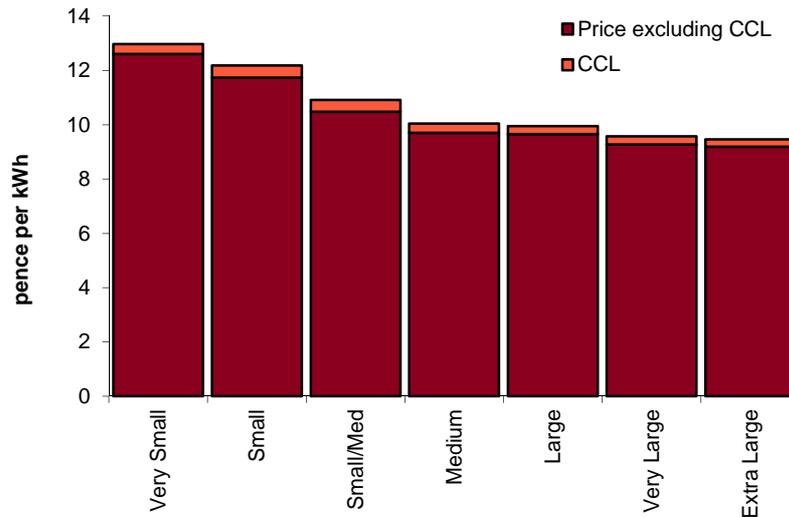
## Gas and electricity prices for the non-domestic sector in the UK

Gas and electricity prices in the non-domestic sector, both including and excluding CCL, for various sizes of consumer are presented in Tables 3.4.1 and 3.4.2.

Average electricity prices, excluding CCL, have risen in cash terms between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 by an average of 1 per cent. Prices rose by 1 to 2 per cent for Small to Large consumers. Extra Large consumers saw prices stay broadly the same, Very Large consumers saw prices fall by 1 per cent, and Very Small consumers saw prices fall by 7 per cent. Average current prices in Q4 2015 have fallen 1 per cent on the high reached in Q1 2015. Chart 20 shows how current prices vary by sizeband.

Average electricity prices, including CCL, increased every quarter from the second quarter of 2004 until the first quarter of 2009, then generally trended down until Q3 2011 when prices started to trend upwards once more. In Q4 2015, the inclusion of CCL increases the average price of electricity by between 3 and 4 per cent.

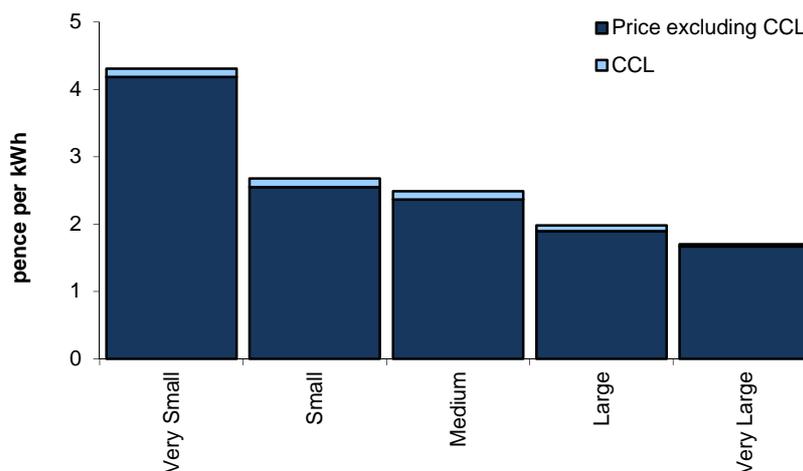
**Chart 20 UK non-domestic electricity prices Q4 2015**



Average gas prices excluding CCL have fallen in cash terms between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 by an average of 11 per cent. Prices by sizeband have fallen by between 5 and 9 per cent for smaller consumers and by between 11 and 18 per cent for larger consumers. Average current prices in Q4 2015 have fallen 11 per cent on the high reached in Q1 2014. Chart 21 shows how current prices vary by sizeband.

Average gas prices, including CCL, show prices trending upwards from 2004, with a slight seasonal decrease usually evident in the second and third quarter of each year. This decrease was not shown in 2008 due to consistently high wholesale gas prices, and has been less marked than usual in recent years for the same reason. In Q4 2015, the inclusion of CCL increases the average price of gas by between 2 and 5 per cent.

**Chart 21 UK non-domestic gas prices Q4 2015**



Link to table:

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

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

## Section 4 – Oil and Petroleum Product Prices

### Highlights

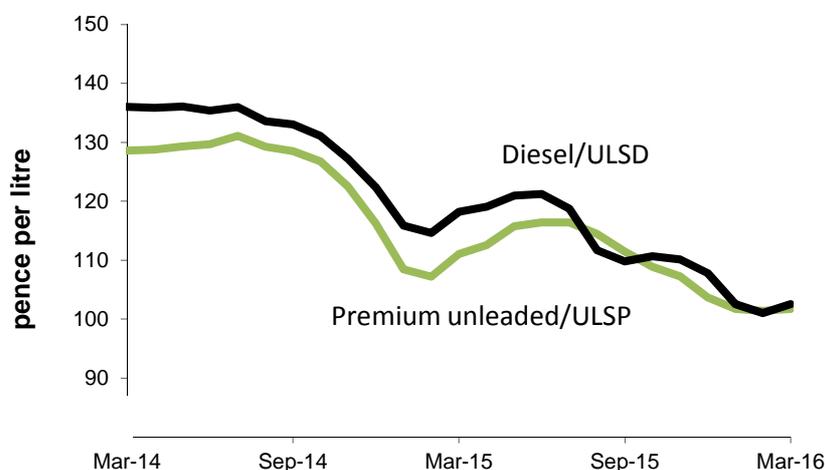
- The price of petrol in March 2016 is 8.4 per cent (9.3 pence) lower than a year ago, at 101.7 pence per litre, whilst diesel is 13 per cent (16 pence) lower at 102.5 pence per litre. Petrol prices are around 40 pence lower than their peak in April 2012 whilst diesel prices are around 45 pence lower.
- The price of crude oil purchased by UK refineries in February 2016 was 38 per cent lower than a year ago. The price in March was around \$40 per barrel, an increase on prices in January and February but considerably below the period between February 2011 and September 2014, when prices were above \$100 per barrel.

### Retail prices of petroleum prices

Prices of petroleum products, including road fuels, are presented in Tables 4.1.1 to 4.1.3. Prices of unleaded petrol (ULSP) and diesel (ULSD) reached new highs in April 2012, mainly due to the cost of crude oil. Petrol prices March 2016 are around 40 pence lower than that peak, whilst diesel prices are around 45 pence lower. Prices are also affected by duty rate changes, as listed in Annex C, and by changes in the general rate of VAT.

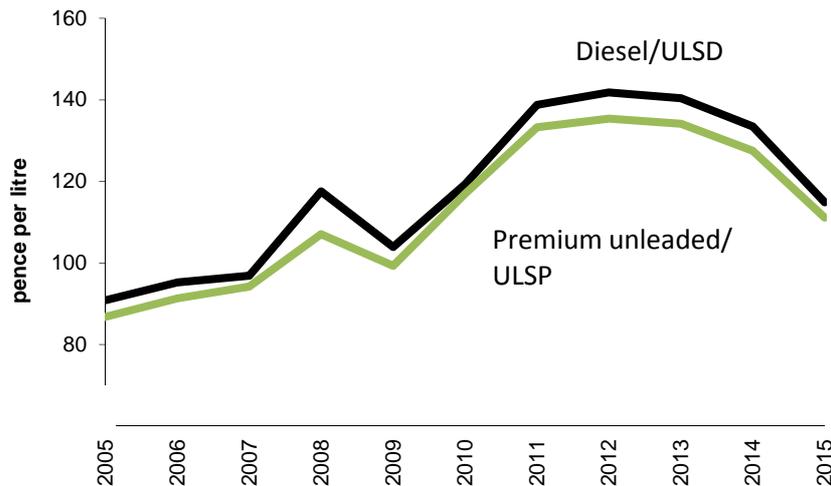
Chart 22 shows that, in mid-March 2016, a litre of ULSP was on average 101.7 pence, 0.3 pence per litre higher than the previous month and 9.3 pence per litre lower than a year ago. Diesel prices were 102.5 pence per litre, 1.5 pence per litre higher than the previous month and 16 pence per litre lower than a year ago.

**Chart 22 Retail prices of motor spirits - quarterly**



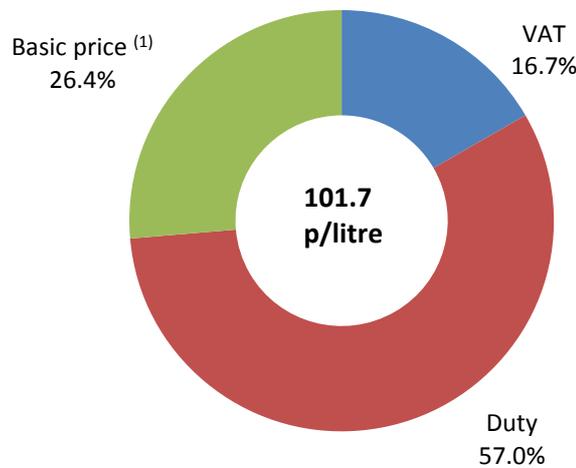
Annual 2015 prices of ULSP and ULSD were lower than the record highs of 2012 by 18 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, as shown in Chart 23. The differential between ULSP and ULSD in 2015 was 3.8 pence per litre, a fall on 2014. Motor fuel prices increased at a steady rate from the Gulf crisis in 1990/91 to 2000, chiefly as a result of duty changes. Since 2000, prices have followed oil prices, increasing strongly in 2008, falling back in 2009, and then increasing strongly once more in 2010 and 2011 before levelling off in 2012. Prices fell slightly in 2013, fell more sharply in 2014, then dropped dramatically in 2015.

**Chart 23 Retail prices of motor spirits - annual**



The price of unleaded petrol, excluding tax, in March 2016 is 55 per cent lower than the peak in April 2012. The price of diesel, excluding taxes, is 58 per cent lower than the April 2012 peak. Chart 24 shows the components of the retail price of petrol in March 2016: the basic price of 26.8 pence per litre, duty at 57.95 pence per litre, and VAT at 20 per cent (17.0 pence per litre).

**Chart 24 Component price of unleaded petrol, March 2016**

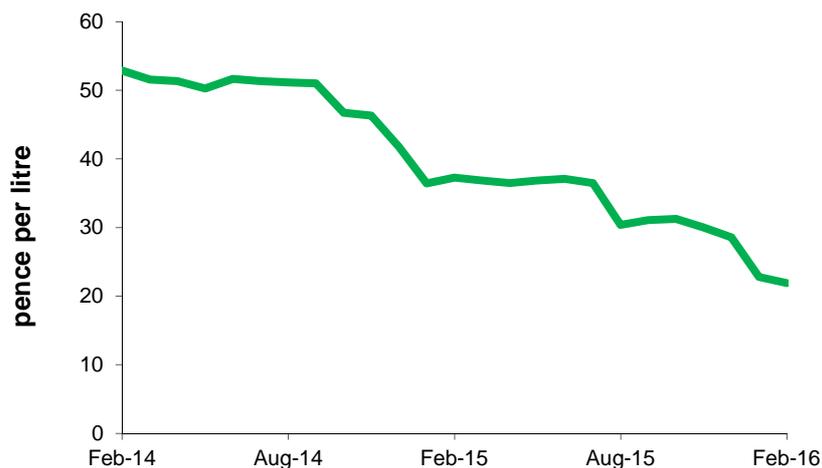


(1) Basic price is the price excluding VAT and duty

Retail prices of heating oil, known as standard grade burning oil (SGBO), and of gas oil for heating are more directly influenced by the price of crude oil than other petroleum products due to lower rates of duty and VAT.

The price of SGBO in February 2016 was 66 per cent lower than February 2013, which was the highest level since July 2008. The price of gas oil in February 2016 was 55 per cent lower than April 2012, which was the highest level since our records started in 1989. In February 2016 the price of SGBO was 41 per cent lower than a year ago, as shown in Chart 25, whilst gas oil was 31 per cent lower.

**Chart 25 Retail prices of heating oil<sup>(1)</sup>**



(1) Heating oil is standard grade burning oil (SGBO)

Link to tables:

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

[Table 4.1.2: Average annual retail price of petroleum products and a crude oil index](#)

[Table 4.1.3: Typical retail prices of petroleum products 1978 to 2015](#)

## Crude oil prices

Movements in the price of crude oil affect the prices of various domestic and industrial fuels, as well as petroleum products. A price index for crude oil is available in Tables 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 for comparison against the prices of petroleum products.

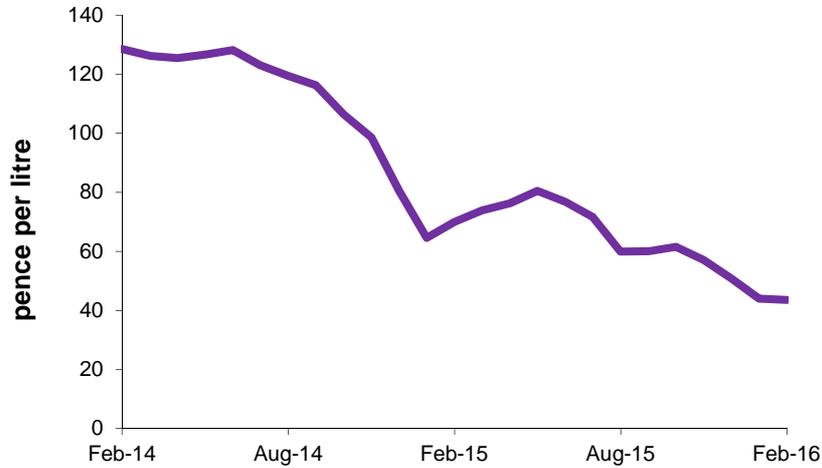
The price of crude oil can change for a variety of reasons, such as: oil shortages (1973); over-supply and weak demand (1998); Hurricanes (2005); the global recession (2008-9); and geopolitical tensions (2008 onwards). In July 2008, average monthly crude oil prices reached a new high in real terms, 10.5 per cent higher than the late 1970's. Oil prices were almost consistently above \$100 per barrel between February 2011 and September 2014, when prices fell due to weak demand and increased supply. More recently, prices fell to under \$45 per barrel, a six-year low, in late August due to concerns over China's economic performance, fluctuated around the \$50 per barrel mark throughout the Autumn, then again dipped to \$40 in early December on OPEC's decision not to cut production from near record levels. In mid-January 2016, oil prices hit 13-year lows of under \$30/barrel due to anticipation over Iranian exports following the lifting of sanctions. In February, prices averaged around \$33 as persistent oversupply continued to place downward pressure on prices, but rose to reach \$40 in March as Latin American crude producers met to discuss the OPEC initiative to support prices by freezing production.

OPEC's 168th Meeting took place on 4 December 2015 in Vienna. Since the last meeting in June 2015, oil and product stock levels in the OECD have continued to rise. Global economic growth is forecast to expand by 3.4% in 2016. In terms of supply and demand, non-OPEC supply is expected to contract in 2016, while global demand is anticipated to expand again by 1.3 million barrels per day (mb/d). However, for the first time since 2011, no decision was reached regarding the production level, previously 30 mb/d. The next meeting will convene on 2 June 2016.

## Oil and Petroleum Product Prices

Chart 26 shows the price of crude oil acquired by UK refineries. In February 2016 the price was 38 per cent lower than a year ago. The average cost of crude oil acquired by UK refineries in February 2016 is 18 per cent lower than the previous low of December 2008. Prices are 72 per cent lower than March 2012, which was the highest level since our records began in 1991.

**Chart 26 Index<sup>(1)</sup> of crude oil prices**



(1) The index represents the average price paid by refineries for the month and is calculated in sterling on a cif basis, see Annex A.

The annual price for 2015 was 43 per cent lower than 2014 and 51 per cent lower than the high of 2012. Over the past five years (February 2011 to February 2016) the average cost of crude oil acquired by refineries has decreased by around 65 per cent.

Link to tables:

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

[Table 4.1.2: Average annual retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil price index](#)

## **Section 5 – International Comparisons**

### **Highlights**

- In February 2016 the UK price for petrol was the sixth highest in the EU 15 at 101.4 pence per litre, whilst the UK price for diesel was the highest in the EU 15 at 101.0 pence per litre.
- For July to December 2015, UK industrial electricity prices for medium consumers including tax were the second highest in the EU 15, whilst industrial gas prices for medium consumers including tax were the fifth lowest in the EU 15.
- For July to December 2015, UK domestic electricity prices for medium consumers including tax were the seventh lowest in the EU 15, whilst domestic gas prices for medium consumers including tax were the fourth lowest in the EU 15.

### **Notes**

International prices vary for many reasons including differences in indigenous resources and market structures, and varying exchange rates and inflation rates (for example, the pound depreciated against the euro by around 10 per cent between the second half of 2014 and the second half of 2015).

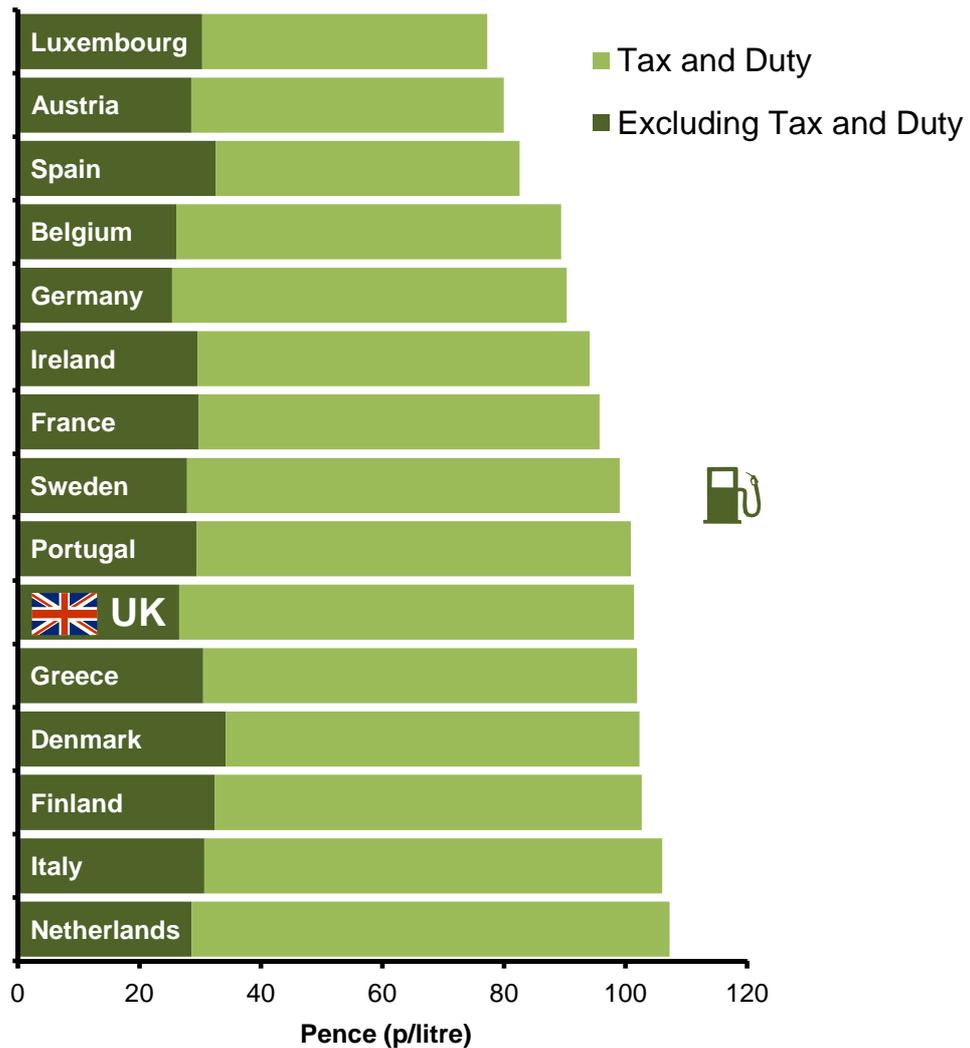
## **Unleaded petrol and Diesel prices**

### **Premium unleaded petrol prices**

Chart 27 shows that average UK unleaded petrol prices, including taxes, in February 2016 were the sixth highest in the EU 15 at 101.4 pence per litre when presented in a common currency basis. The lowest price was in Luxembourg at 77.3 pence per litre while the highest price was in the Netherlands at 107.2 pence per litre.

Average UK diesel prices, excluding taxes, in February 2016 were the third lowest within the EU 15 at 26.6 pence per litre. The lowest price was in Germany at 25.4 pence per litre while the highest price was in the Denmark at 34.2 pence per litre.

**Chart 27 Premium unleaded petrol prices, February 2016**



Source: European Commission Oil Bulletin

Link to table:

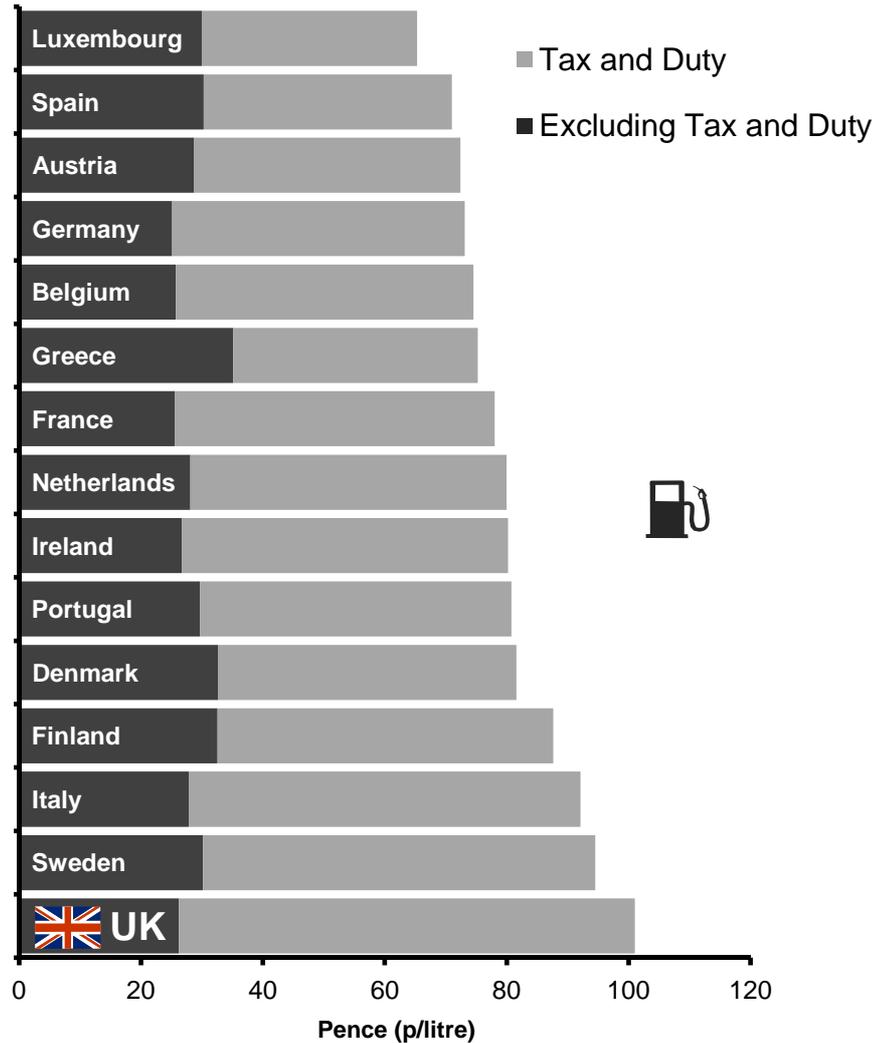
[Table 5.1.1: Premium unleaded petrol prices in the EU](#)

### Diesel prices

Chart 28 shows that average UK diesel prices, including taxes, in February 2016 were the highest within the EU 15 at 101.0 pence per litre when presented in a common currency basis. The lowest price was in Luxembourg at 65.3 pence per litre.

The high UK diesel price is mainly due to the taxes levied, which formed 74 per cent of the total price in February 2016, compared to a range of 52 to 70 per cent in the rest of the EU 15. Average UK diesel prices, excluding taxes, in February 2016 were the fourth lowest within the EU 15 at 26.2 pence per litre. The lowest price was in Germany at 25.1 pence per litre while the highest price was in the Greece at 35.2 pence per litre.

**Chart 28 Diesel prices, February 2016**



Source: European Commission Oil Bulletin

Link to table:  
[Table 5.2.1: Diesel prices in the EU](#)

## Industrial gas and electricity prices

Prices for gas and electricity in this section will vary depending on the periodicity (6-monthly or annual) and consumption (banded or an overall average) of the tables. In general, the 6-monthly Eurostat EU 28 tables have more timely data and reflect changes on a shorter timescale, but comparisons with non-EU countries require the annual IEA tables.

Rankings may differ between the IEA and Eurostat tables. Charts include data available at the time of publication. The black line on the charts shows the median, this is produced using the data from all available countries as well as DECC estimates for the countries with missing data.

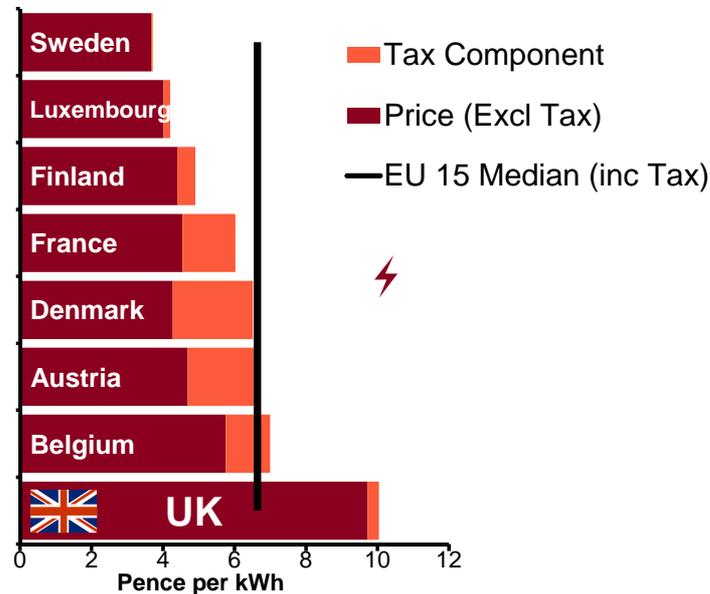
### Industrial electricity prices

Average UK industrial electricity prices including taxes for medium consumers for the period July to December 2015 were second highest in the EU 15 and were 51 per cent above the estimated EU 15 median of 6.6 pence per kWh. The UK price for medium consumers excluding taxes was the

## International Comparisons

highest in the EU 15 and was 96 per cent above the estimated median price of 5 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices for medium consumers including tax were the second highest in the EU 15. Chart 29 shows the prices for EU 15 nations where data is available for the period July to December 2015.

**Chart 29 Industrial electricity prices**



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU 15 for July – December 2015. Medium consumers are defined as having an annual consumption of 2,000 - 19,999 MWh per annum. Estimated data for Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain has been omitted from this chart. Source: Eurostat Statistics in Focus Electricity prices for EU Industry, July – December 2015.

The average industrial electricity price including taxes in the UK for medium consumers rose by 4 per cent on the same period in 2014, whereas prices in the rest of the EU15 fell during this period. This was primarily due to the exchange rate, the pound depreciating against the euro by 10 per cent in this time frame.

Link to table:

[Table 5.4.1: Average industrial electricity prices in the EU](#)

In 2014, average UK industrial electricity prices, including taxes, were the seventh highest in the IEA, fourth lowest in the G7, and were 25 per cent above the IEA median price. UK industrial electricity prices were 12 per cent cheaper than in Japan, but more than double the price in the USA.

The UK price rose between 2013 and 2014 by 7 per cent, compared to falls for most other countries. This difference in growth rates was partly driven by movements in exchange rates of around 6 per cent in the EU and 10 to 15 per cent in the wider IEA.

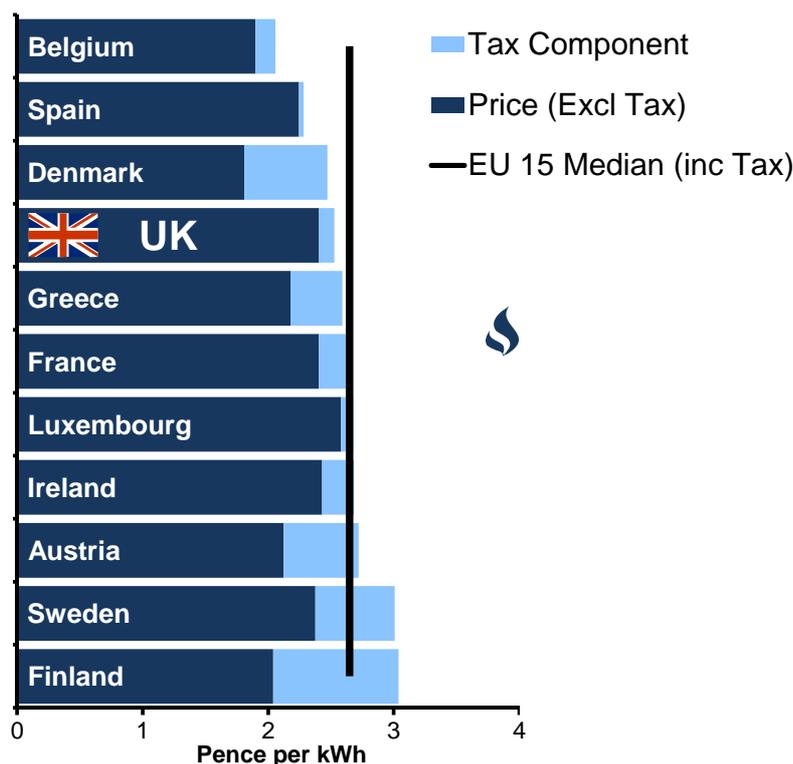
Link to table:

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

## Industrial gas prices

Average UK industrial gas prices for the period July to December 2015, including taxes, for medium consumers were the fifth lowest in the EU 15 and were 5 per cent below the median price of 2.7 pence per kWh. UK prices excluding taxes for medium consumers were the fifth highest in the EU15 and were 6 per cent above the estimated EU 15 median of 2.3 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices for medium consumers including tax were the fifth lowest in the EU 15. Chart 30 shows the prices for EU 15 nations where data is available for the period July to December 2015.

**Chart 30 Industrial gas prices**



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU 15 for July – December 2015. Medium consumers are defined as having an annual consumption of 2,778 – 27,777 MWh. Estimated data for Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Portugal has been omitted from this chart. Source: Eurostat Statistics in Focus Electricity prices for EU Industry July – December 2015.

The average Industrial gas price including taxes in the UK for medium consumers fell by 8 per cent on the same period in 2014, whereas prices for the rest of the EU15 generally fell by a greater margin during this period. This was primarily due to the exchange rate, the pound depreciating against the euro by 10 per cent in this time frame.

Link to table:

[Table 5.8.1: Average industrial gas prices in the EU](#)

In 2014, average UK industrial gas prices, including taxes where not refunded, were the sixth lowest in the IEA, third lowest in the G7, and were 12 per cent below the IEA median. UK industrial gas prices were 40 per cent cheaper than in Japan, but more than double the price in the USA and Canada.

Link to table:

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

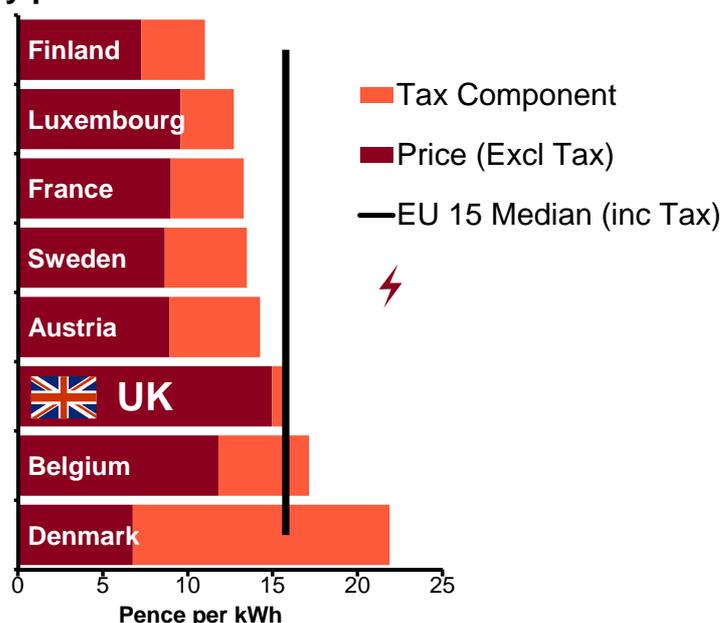
## Domestic electricity and gas prices

### Domestic electricity prices

The average UK domestic electricity price including taxes for medium consumers for July to December 2015 was the seventh lowest in the EU 15 and was 0.4 per cent below the estimated EU 15 median price of 15.8 pence per kWh. The UK price excluding taxes was the second highest in the EU 15 and was 56 per cent above the median level of 9.6 pence per kWh.

Annual 2015 prices for medium consumers including tax were the eighth highest in the EU 15. Chart 31 shows the prices for EU 15 nations where data is available for the period July to December 2015.

**Chart 31 Domestic electricity prices**



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU 15 for July – December 2015. Medium consumers are defined as having an annual consumption of 2,500 - 4,999 kWh per annum. Estimated data for Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain has been omitted from this chart. Source: Eurostat Statistics in Focus Electricity prices for EU households, July – December 2015.

The average domestic electricity price including taxes in the UK for medium consumers fell by 1 per cent on the same period in 2014, whereas prices for the majority of rest of the EU15 fell by a greater margin during this period. This was primarily due to the exchange rate, the pound depreciating against the euro by 10 per cent in this time frame.

Link to table:

[Table 5.6.1: Average domestic electricity prices in the EU](#)

In 2014, average UK domestic electricity prices, including taxes, were the third highest in the IEA as well as third highest in the G7. This was 17 per cent above the IEA median. UK domestic electricity prices were 1 per cent higher than in Japan, but more than double the price in the USA.

Link to table:

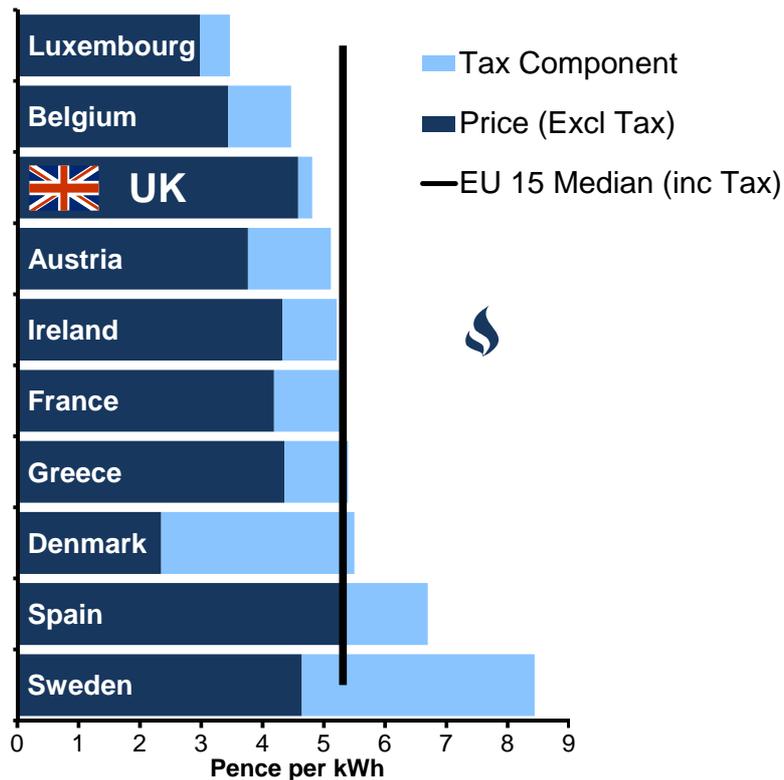
[Table 5.5.1: Domestic electricity prices in the IEA including and excluding taxes.](#)

## International Comparisons

### Domestic gas prices

Chart 32 shows that average UK domestic gas prices, including taxes, for medium consumers for the period July to December 2015 were the fourth lowest in the EU 15 and were 10 per cent lower than the estimated median of 5.3 pence per kWh. The UK price excluding taxes was the fifth highest in the EU 15 and was 15 per cent higher than the median price of 4 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices for medium consumers including tax were the third lowest in the EU 15. Chart 32 shows the prices for EU 15 nations where data is available for the period July to December 2015.

**Chart 32 Domestic gas prices**



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU 15 for July – December 2015. Medium consumers are defined as having an annual consumption of 5,557 – 55,556 kWh per annum. Finland does not provide data to Eurostat for this series. Estimated data for Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Portugal has been omitted from this chart. Source: Eurostat Statistics in Focus Electricity prices for EU households, July – December 2015.

The average domestic gas price including taxes in the UK for medium consumers fell by 6 per cent on the same period in 2014, whereas prices for the rest of the EU15 generally fell by a greater margin during this period. This was primarily due to the exchange rate, the pound depreciating against the euro by 10 per cent in this time frame.

Link to table:

[Table 5.10.1: Average domestic gas prices in the EU](#)

In 2014, average UK domestic gas prices, including taxes, were the eleventh lowest in the IEA, third lowest in the G7, and were 6.9 per cent lower than the IEA median. UK domestic gas prices were 41 per cent cheaper than in Japan, but were more than double the price in the USA and Canada.

Link to table:

[Table 5.9.1: Domestic gas prices in the EU 15 and G7 countries including and excluding taxes](#)

## List of Charts

Chart 1	Fuel price indices in the domestic sector in real terms – quarterly
Chart 2	Fuel price indices in the domestic sector in real terms – annual
Chart 3	Average standard electricity and gas bills
Chart 4	Proportion of customers on each payment type
Chart 5	Average bills on each payment type
Chart 6	Regional payment method for standard electricity
Chart 7	Regional payment method for gas
Chart 8	Proportion of customers with their original home supplier for electricity and gas in GB
Chart 9	Average Standard electric and gas bill for home, non-home and all suppliers in GB
Chart 10	Proportion of customers on fixed tariffs by payment type
Chart 11	Percentage of domestic electricity customers with a non-home supplier
Chart 12	Percentage of domestic gas customers with a non-home supplier
Chart 13	Domestic gas and electricity transfers
Chart 14	Manufacturing industry price movements by size of consumer
Chart 15	Average annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry
Chart 16	Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas – quarterly
Chart 17	Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas – annual
Chart 18	Industrial fuel price indices – quarterly
Chart 19	Industrial fuel price indices – annual
Chart 20	UK non-domestic electricity prices
Chart 21	UK non-domestic gas prices
Chart 22	Retail prices of motor spirits - quarterly
Chart 23	Retail prices of motor spirits - annual
Chart 24	Component price of unleaded petrol
Chart 25	Retail prices of heating oil
Chart 26	Index of crude oil prices
Chart 27	Premium unleaded petrol prices
Chart 28	Diesel prices
Chart 29	Industrial electricity prices
Chart 30	Industrial gas prices
Chart 31	Domestic electricity prices
Chart 32	Domestic gas prices

# Explanatory notes

## General

More detailed notes on the methodology used to compile the figures and data sources are available on the DECC section of the gov.uk website.

## Notes to tables

- Figures for the latest periods and the corresponding averages (or totals) are provisional and are liable to subsequent revision.
- The figures have not been adjusted for temperature or seasonal factors except where noted.
- Due to rounding the sum of the constituent items may not equal the totals.
- Percentage changes relate to the corresponding period a year ago. They are calculated from unrounded figures but are shown only as (+) or (-) when the percentage change is very large.
- All figures relate to the United Kingdom unless otherwise indicated.

## Abbreviations

GDP	Gross domestic product
UKCS	United Kingdom continental shelf
VAT	Value added tax

## Symbols used in the tables

- .. not available
- nil or not separately available
- p provisional
- r revised; where a column or row shows 'r' at the beginning, most, but not necessarily all, of the data have been revised.
- e estimated; totals of which the figures form a constituent part are therefore partly estimated

## Conversion factors

1 tonne of crude oil =	7.55 barrels
1 tonne =	1,000 kilograms
1 gallon (UK) =	4.54609 litres
1 kilowatt (kW) =	1,000 watts
1 megawatt (MW) =	1,000 kilowatts
1 gigawatt (GW) =	1,000 megawatts
1 terawatt (TW) =	1,000 gigawatts

All conversion of fuels from original units to units of energy is carried out on the basis of the gross calorific value of the fuel. More detailed information on conversion factors and calorific values is given in Annex A of the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics.

## Conversion matrices

To convert from the units on the left hand side to the units across the top multiply by the values in the table.

To:	Thousand toe	Terajoules	GWh	Million therms
<b>From</b>	<b>Multiply by</b>			
Thousand toe	1	41.868	11.630	0.39683
Terajoules (TJ)	0.023885	1	0.27778	0.0094778
Gigawatt hours (GWh)	0.085985	3.6000	1	0.034121
Million therms	2.5200	105.51	29.307	1

To:	Tonnes of oil equivalent	Gigajoules	kWh	Therms
<b>From</b>	<b>Multiply by</b>			
Tonnes of oil equivalent	1	41.868	11,630	396.83
Gigajoules (GJ)	0.023885	1	277.78	9.4778
Kilowatt hours (kWh)	0.000085985	0.003600	1	0.034121
Therms	0.0025200	0.105510	29.307	1

Note that all factors are quoted to 5 significant figures

## Climate Change Levy (CCL)

The Climate Change Levy came into effect on 1 April 2001. This levy is designed to encourage businesses to reduce their energy consumption so as to reduce global warming. For information about the Climate Change Levy please contact the HM Revenue & Customs National Advice Service on 0300 200 3700.

Crown copyright 2016  
Department of Energy & Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place  
London SW1A 2AW  
[www.gov.uk/decc](http://www.gov.uk/decc)  
URN 16D/276A