



QUARTERLY ENERGY PRICES



30 June 2016

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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

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More information on DECC energy publications is available on the DECC website

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/about/statistics

Other Useful websites

Ofgem www.ofgem.gov.uk/

DEFRA www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

HM Revenue and Customs www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs

International Energy Agency www.iea.org

Eurostat www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

UK Petroleum Industry Association www.ukpia.com

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. 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 provisional Q1 2016 and final annual 2015 prices for industrial consumers and major power producers. There is also an initial comparison of prices in the IEA with those in the UK for 2015, sourced from IEA data. The petroleum product prices are provisional June 2016, whilst the international unleaded petrol and diesel prices are for May 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 29 September 2016, will present provisional Q2 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 September 2016, and there will be international petrol and diesel prices as at August 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 Liz Vincent, (Elizabeth.Vincent@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 4.3 per cent in the year to Q1 2016. Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, real terms prices for domestic electricity fell by 0.7 per cent and domestic gas prices fell by 6.5 per cent.
- 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
- Around a third of all customers in the domestic market are now on fixed tariffs. Direct Debit customers are most likely to be on fixed tariffs with around 45 per cent of these customers on a fixed deal.
- The total number of domestic supplier switches increased in Q1 2016, the number of electricity transfers was 26.1 per cent higher than Q1 2015 with 1,093,000 electricity transfers in Q1 2016 compared with 867,000 in Q1 2015. The number of gas transfers was 22 per cent higher than Q1 2015 with 858,000 transfers in Q1 2016, compared with 703,000 in Q1 2015.

Industrial

- Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, average industrial prices in real terms including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) fell by 18 per cent for both gas and for heavy fuel oil, whilst prices for coal and electricity fell by 5.3 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively.
- Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, the price of gas used for electricity generation decreased by 31 per cent in cash terms whilst the price of coal decreased by 7 per cent.

Oil and petroleum product prices

- The price of petrol in June 2016 is 4.6 per cent (5.4 pence) lower than a year ago, at 111.0 pence per litre, whilst diesel is 7.6 per cent (9.3 pence) lower at 112.0 pence per litre. Petrol prices are around 31 pence lower than their peak in April 2012 whilst diesel prices are around 36 pence lower.
- The price of crude oil purchased by UK refineries in May 2016 was 18 per cent lower than a year ago. The price in June was around \$50 per barrel, an increase on prices since the start of the year but considerably below the period between February 2011 and September 2014, when prices were above \$100 per barrel.

International

- In May 2016 the UK price for petrol was the eighth highest in the EU 15 at 108.4 pence per litre, whilst the UK price for diesel was the highest in the EU 15 at 109.1 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 sixth lowest in the EU 15.
- For July to December 2015, UK domestic electricity prices for medium consumers including tax were the eighth highest in the EU 15, whilst domestic gas prices for medium consumers including tax were the third lowest in the EU 15.

Section 2 – Domestic Prices

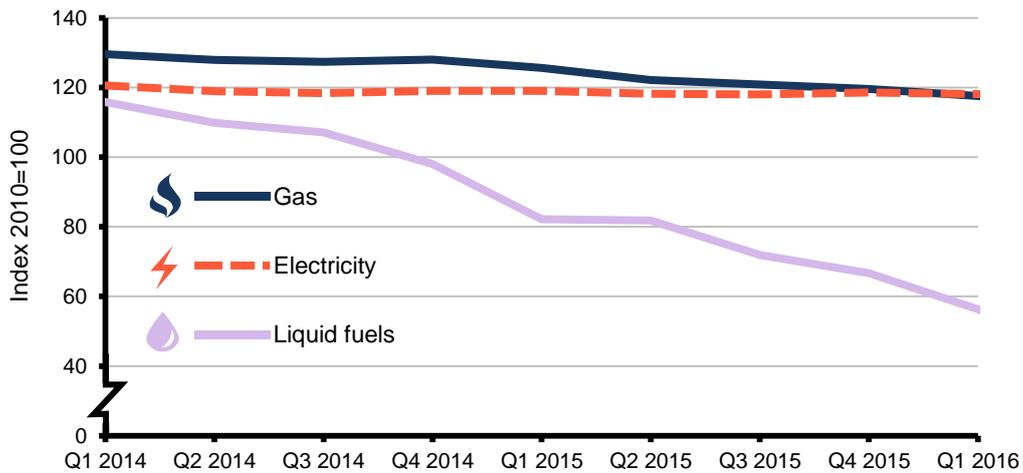
Highlights

- The price paid for domestic fuels in real terms has fallen by 4.3 per cent in the year to Q1 2016. Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, real terms prices for domestic electricity fell by 0.7 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.
- Around a third of all customers in the domestic market are now on fixed tariffs. Direct Debit customers are most likely to be on fixed tariffs with around 45 per cent of these customers on a fixed deal.
- The total number of domestic supplier switches increased in Q1 2016, the number of electricity transfers was 26.1 per cent higher than Q1 2015 with 1,093,000 electricity transfers in Q1 2016 compared with 867,000 in Q1 2015. The number of gas transfers was 22 per cent higher than Q1 2015 with 858,000 transfers in Q1 2016, compared with 703,000 in Q1 2015.

Retail price of fuels for the domestic sector

In terms of domestic fuel price indices, the price for all domestic fuels has fallen by 4.3 per cent in Q1 2016 compared to Q1 2015. As shown in Chart 1, in real terms domestic electricity fell by 0.7 per cent, gas fell by 6.5 per cent, and liquid fuels fell by 31.5 per cent, driven by falls in the price of crude oil. Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, motor fuel and oil prices, including VAT, fell 8.3 per cent in real terms. The price of solid fuels fell by 0.9 per cent in real terms between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016.

Chart 1 Fuel price indices in the domestic sector⁽¹⁾ - quarterly

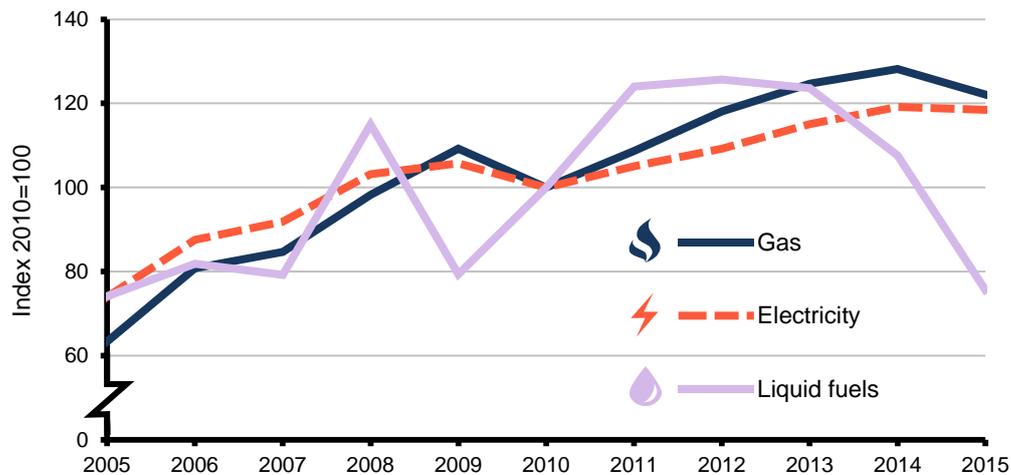


Source: ONS, Consumer prices index
⁽¹⁾ Data in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the GDP (market prices) deflator.

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 rapidly. 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⁽¹⁾ - annual



Source: ONS, Consumer prices index
⁽¹⁾ 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 Trends¹. 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 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.

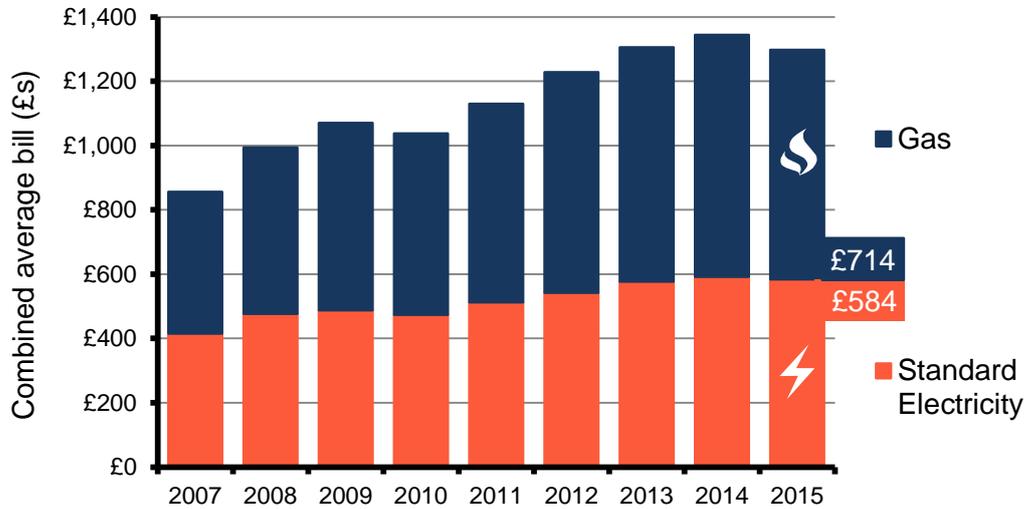
Chart 3 shows average standard domestic energy bills, in cash terms. Combined gas and electricity bills have decreased by £46 (3.4 per cent) between 2014 and 2015, to £1,298. Average standard electricity bills in 2015 decreased by £8 (to £584), and average gas bills decreased by £38 (to £714). Combined 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 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| Standard Electricity | £592 | £584 | £8 | -1.4% |
| Gas | £752 | £714 | £38 | -5.1% |
| Combined | £1,344 | £1,298 | £46 | -3.4% |

¹ See March 2016 Energy Trends article for more details: www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends-articles

Chart 3 Average standard electricity and gas bills



Link to tables:

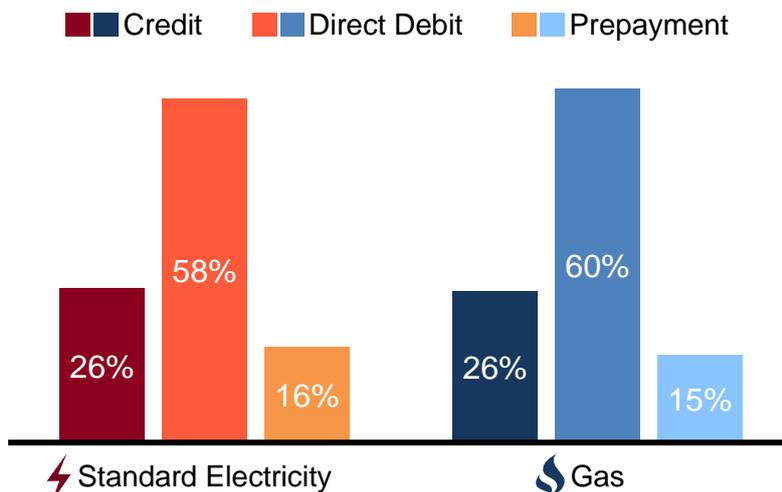
[Table 2.2.1: Average annual domestic electricity bills, by home and non-home supplier](#)

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

Payment methods

At the end of March 2016, 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



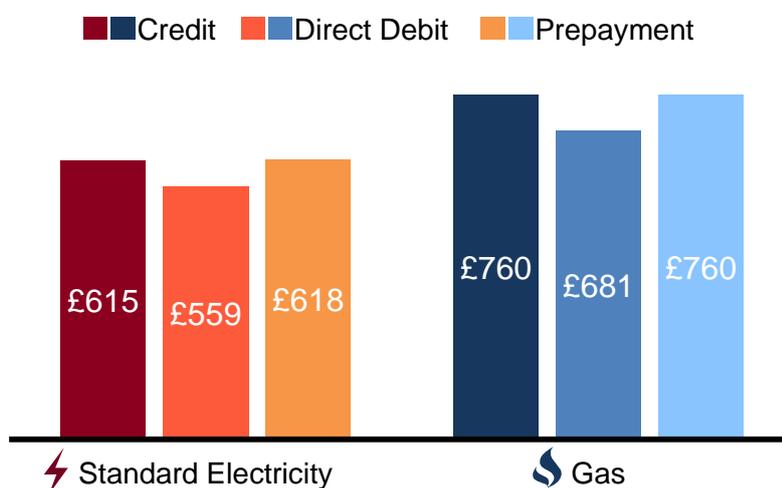
Section 2 – Domestic Prices

In 2015 the average annual bill¹ 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 method²

| | 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](#)

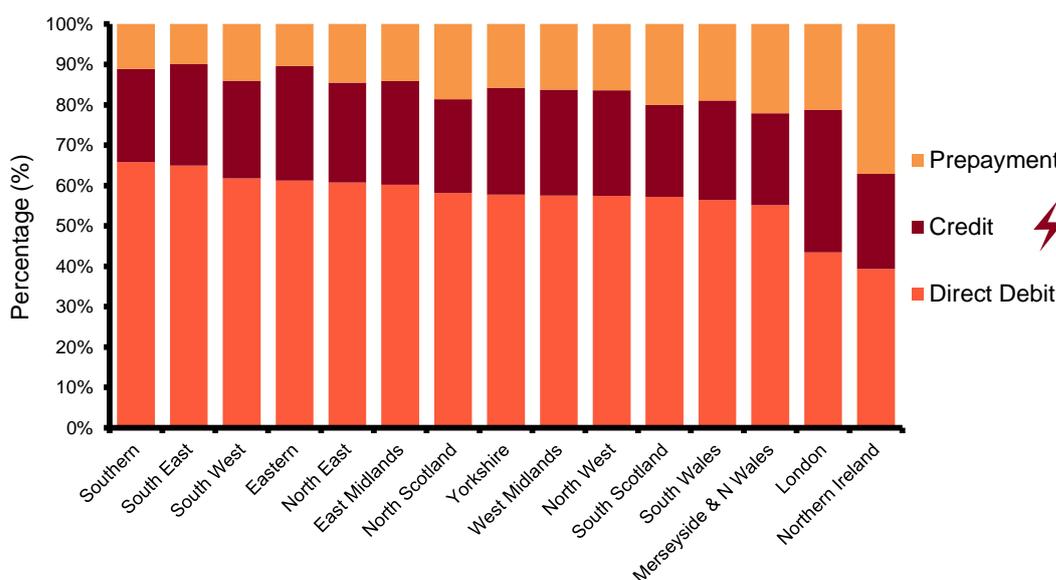
¹ Based on a fixed consumption of 15,000kWh for gas and 3,800kWh for electricity

² 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. However Northern Ireland has a broadly similar proportion of customers who pay by pre-payment as who use direct debit. As Chart 6 shows, the Southern region had the highest proportion of customers paying by direct debit, at 66 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



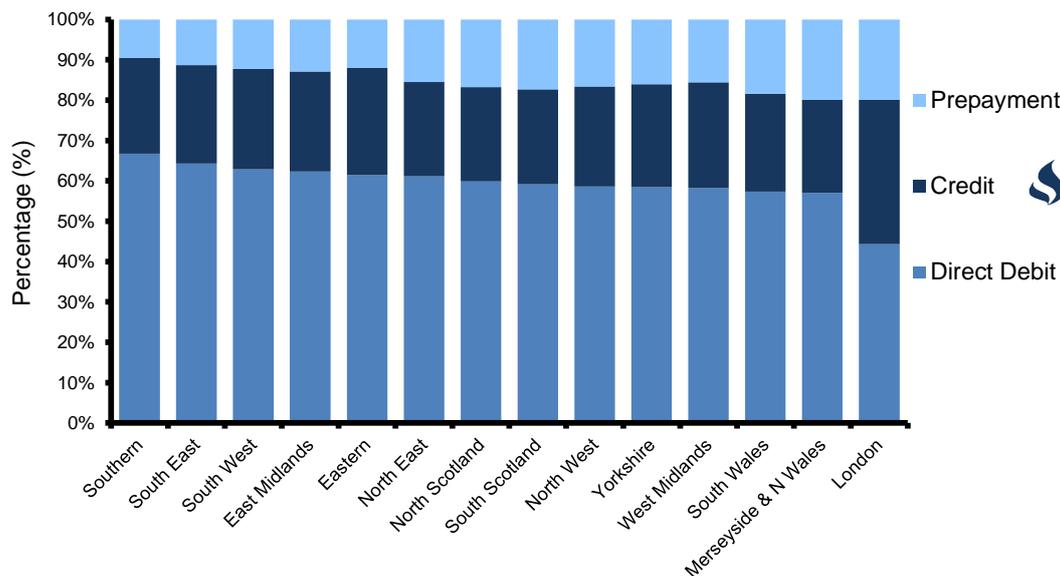
Link to tables:

[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 67 per cent. The London region had the lowest percentage paying by direct debit, at 44 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.

Chart 7 Regional payment methods for gas



Link to tables:

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

Domestic energy competition

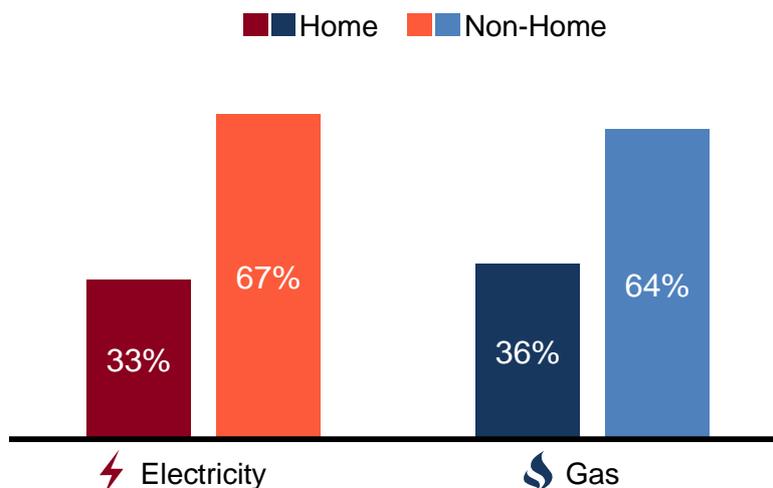
Prior to the privatisation of the GB energy market, all energy customers were supplied by their regional Electricity and Gas boards. With privatisation these boards became the commercial home suppliers for each region to which all customers in that region belonged before the market opened up to competition. 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 18.6 million (67 per cent of) domestic electricity¹ customers and 14.5 million (64 per cent of) domestic gas customers in Great Britain² 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).

¹ Includes both standard electricity and Economy 7 electricity.

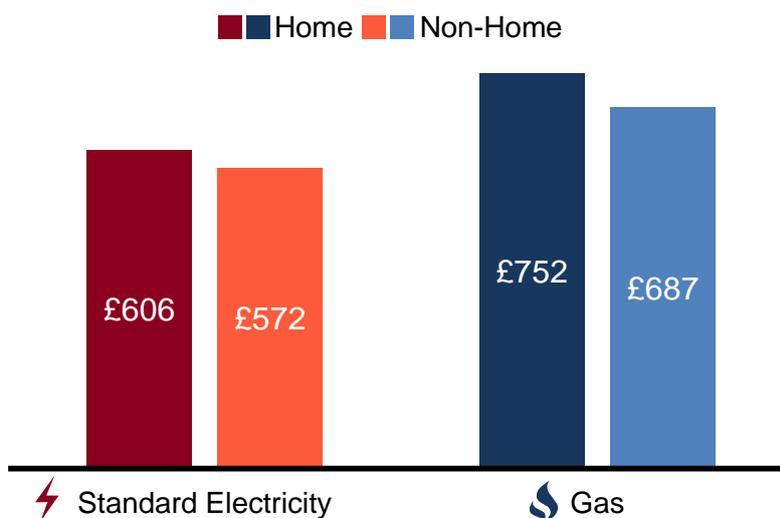
² Competition is still limited in scope for domestic customers in Northern Ireland, and so this country has been excluded from this analysis.

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 consumption¹ 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 March 2016, 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

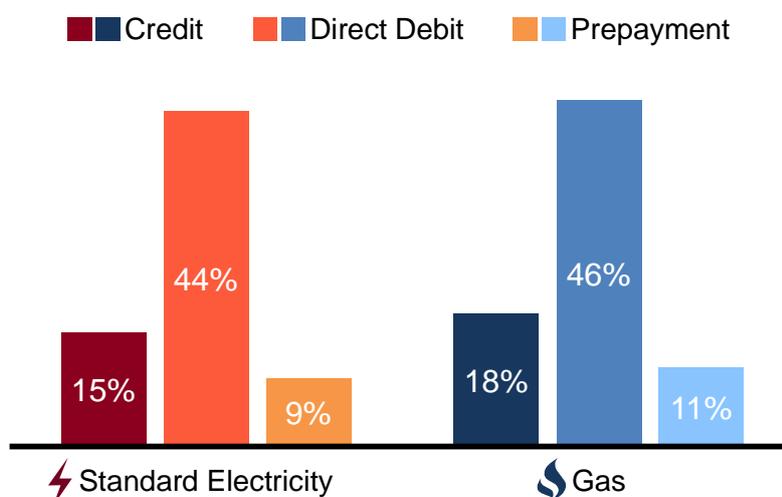
¹ 15,000kWh for gas and 3,800kWh for electricity

Section 2 – Domestic Prices

in recent years. A variable tariff is defined as one where the price is subject to change at any point. A fixed tariff¹ is where the price has been set for a defined period of time.

Thirty one per cent of all standard electricity and 33 per cent of gas customers were on fixed tariffs at the end of March 2016. This is an increase from the same period in 2015. Direct Debit customers are most likely to be on fixed tariffs with around 45 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](#)

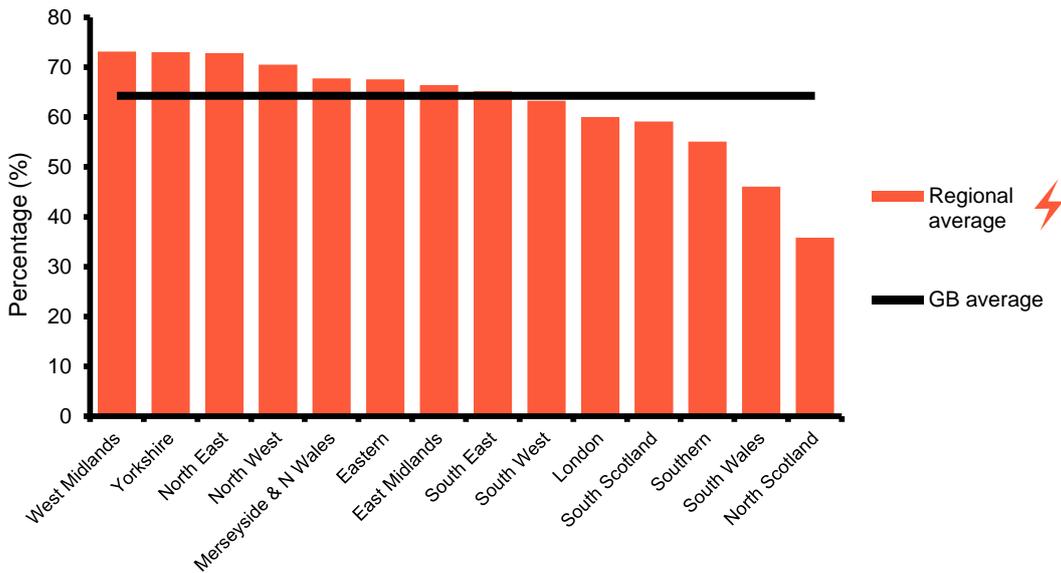
Regional competition - Electricity

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 only around 36 per cent still with a non-home supplier, whereas customers in the West Midlands, Yorkshire and the North East were most likely to have moved with around 73 per cent now having moved away from their home supplier.

¹ 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.

Chart 11 Percentage electricity customers with a non-home supplier

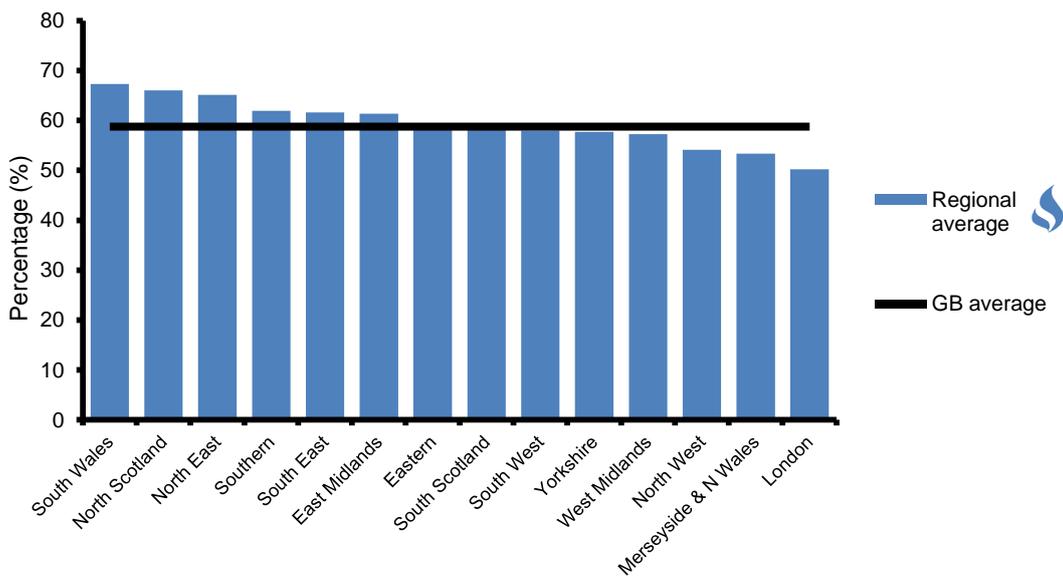


Regional competition - Gas

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 with a non-home supplier, whereas customers in South Wales were the most likely to have moved with around 67 per cent now having moved away from their home supplier.

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



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 57 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 |
| Total | £1,416 | £1,338 | £1,298 | £1,210 | £1,416 | £1,352 | £1,358 | £1,259 |

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](#)

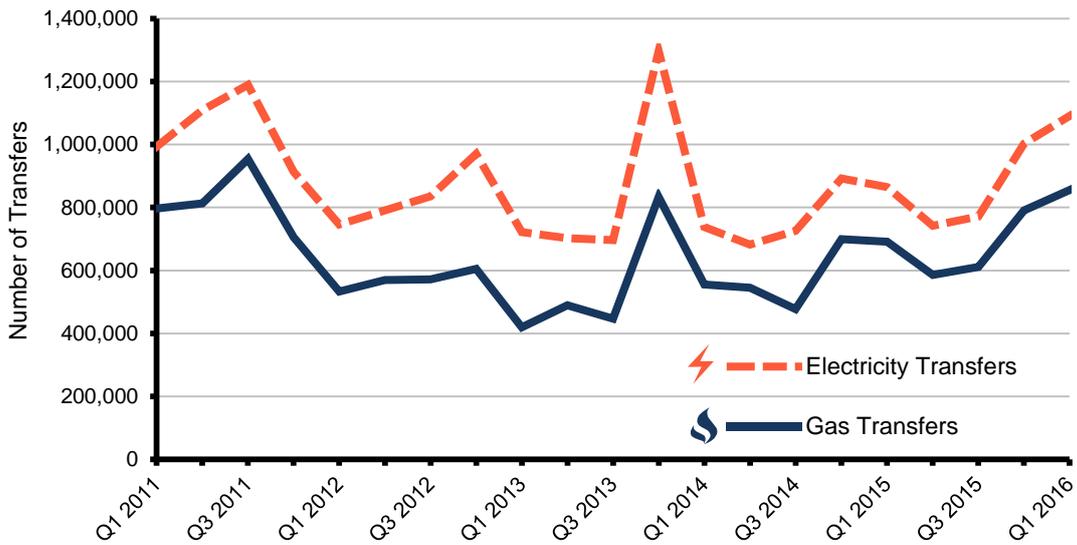
[Table 2.5.1: Percentage of domestic gas customers by region by supplier type](#)

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. Previously 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 26.1 per cent between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, with an estimated 1,091,000 electricity transfers being made in Q1 2016 compared to 865,000 in the same period in 2015 as seen in Chart 13. Since Q1 2015 gas transfers have increased by 23.9 per cent to 856,000 transfers in Q1 2016 compared with 691,000 transfers in the same period last year. For both electricity and gas, these transfers represent around 3.9 per cent of customers in the domestic market having switched supplier during Q1 2016.

Chart 13 Domestic gas and electricity transfers



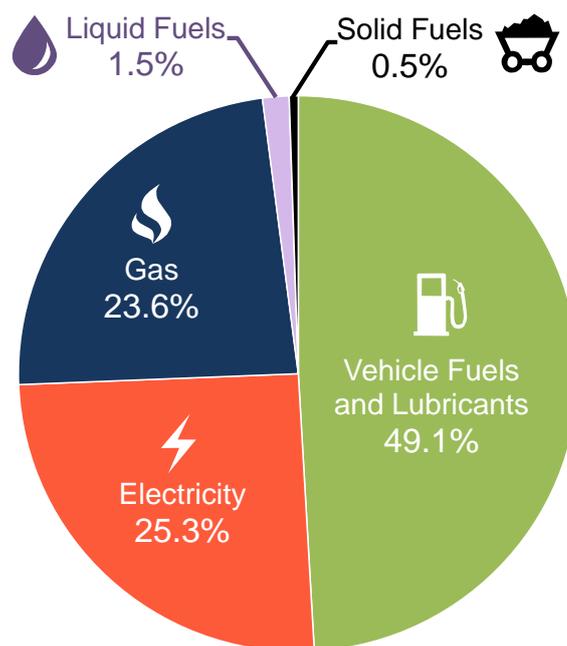
Link to tables:

Table 2.7.1: Transfer statistics in the domestic gas and electricity markets

Expenditure on energy

In 2015, almost 50 per cent of expenditure on energy was on vehicle fuels and lubricants. Chart 14 below shows the proportion spent on each, with almost a quarter of expenditure spent on gas and electricity.

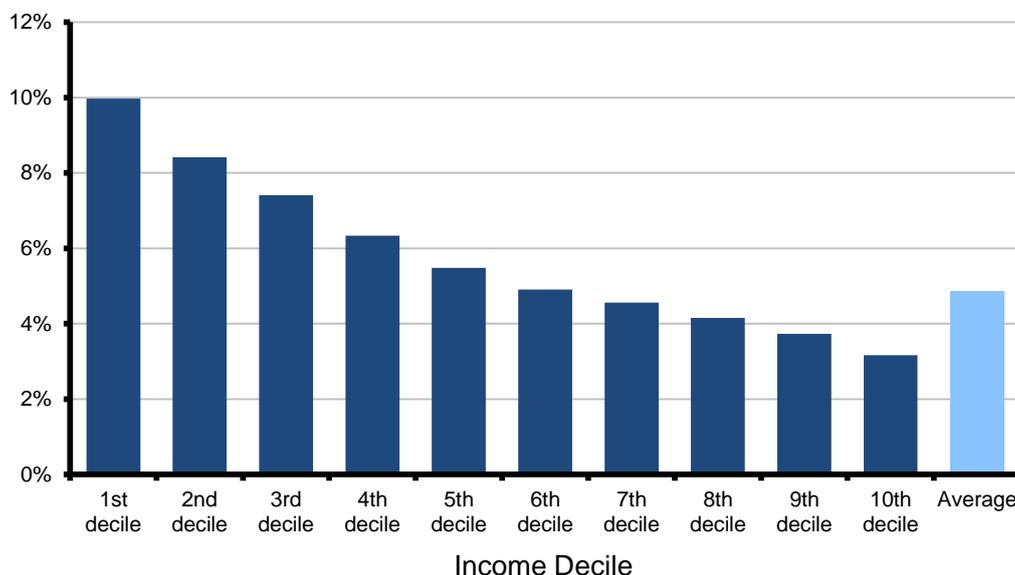
Chart 14 Total household expenditure on energy



Section 2 – Domestic Prices

The proportion of total expenditure spent on energy varies depending on their income. Those in the lower income deciles, spend, on average, a greater proportion of their total expenditure on fuel compared to those in the higher income deciles. The chart 15 below shows that those in the lowest decile spend 10 per cent of their total expenditure on fuel, whereas this is just five per cent in the highest income decile.

Chart 15 Proportion of total expenditure on fuel by income decile



Link to tables:

[Table 2.6.1: Total household expenditure on energy in the UK](#)

[Table 2.6.2: Average expenditure each week on fuel per consuming household in the UK](#)

Section 3 – Industrial Prices

Highlights

- Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, average industrial prices in real terms including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) fell by 18 per cent for both gas and for heavy fuel oil, whilst prices for coal and electricity fell by 5.3 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively.
- Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, the price of gas used for electricity generation decreased by 31 per cent in cash terms whilst the price of coal decreased by 7 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 size-bands 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 size bands 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 45 per cent in 2015.

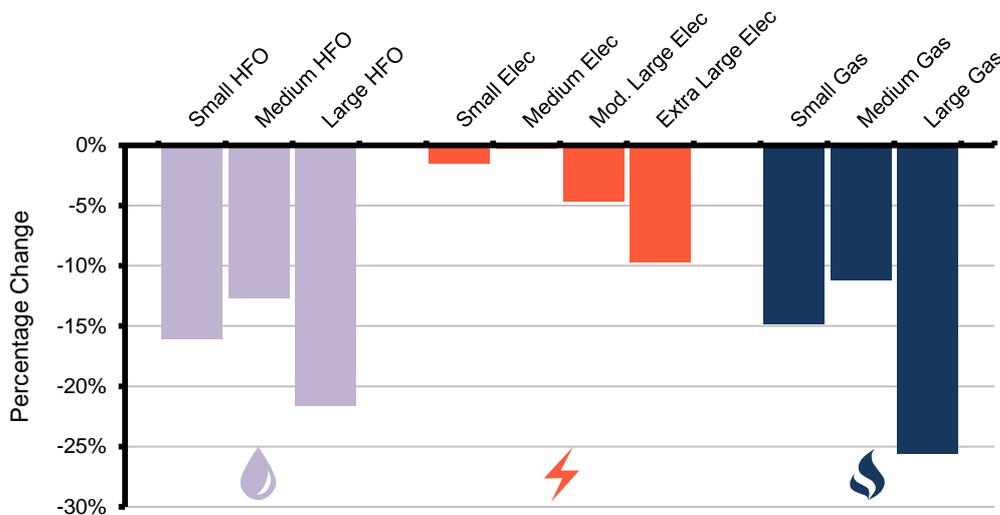
Average fuel prices for electricity rose each year between 2005 and 2015 with the exception of falls in 2007 and 2010. For gas, average prices were more variable, with a

Section 3 – Industrial Prices

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 2013 with the exception of 2009 and 2012, before falling slightly in 2014 and then at a faster pace in 2015.

Recent price movements for manufacturers are shown in Chart 16. Compared to Q1 2015, heavy fuel oil consumers in Q4 2015 have seen prices fall by an average of 17 per cent in cash terms. Over the same period, prices paid by electricity consumers, in cash terms excluding CCL, fell by an average of 4.4 per cent. Gas consumers have seen prices, in cash terms excluding CCL, decrease by an average of 21 per cent.

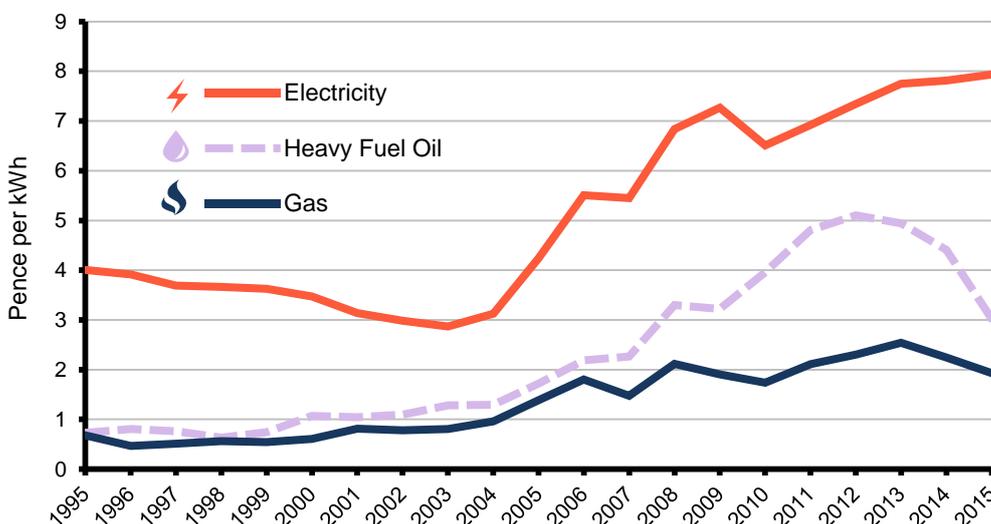
Chart 16 Manufacturing industry price movements by size of consumer⁽¹⁾



(1) Percentage price movement between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016 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 1.5 per cent (1.2 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 17 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

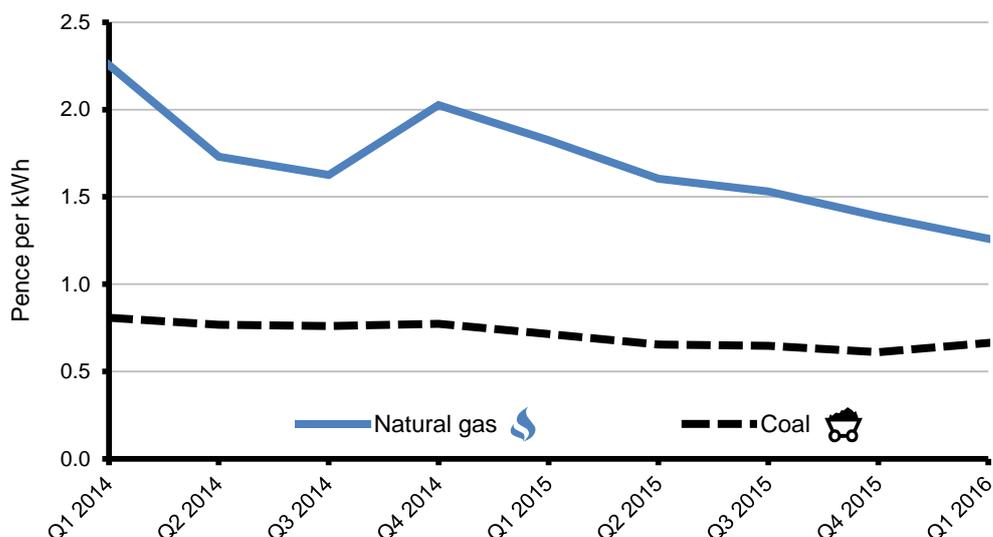
Average purchase costs of fuels used to generate electricity are presented in Table 3.2.1. Generation costs are also affected by non-fuel costs, and by the efficiency with which fuel is converted into electricity in different types of power station, therefore comparing the fuel input costs in common 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 equivalent to 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 0.9 per cent, but coal fell by 25 per cent as a result of reduced capacity and an increase in the carbon price floor.

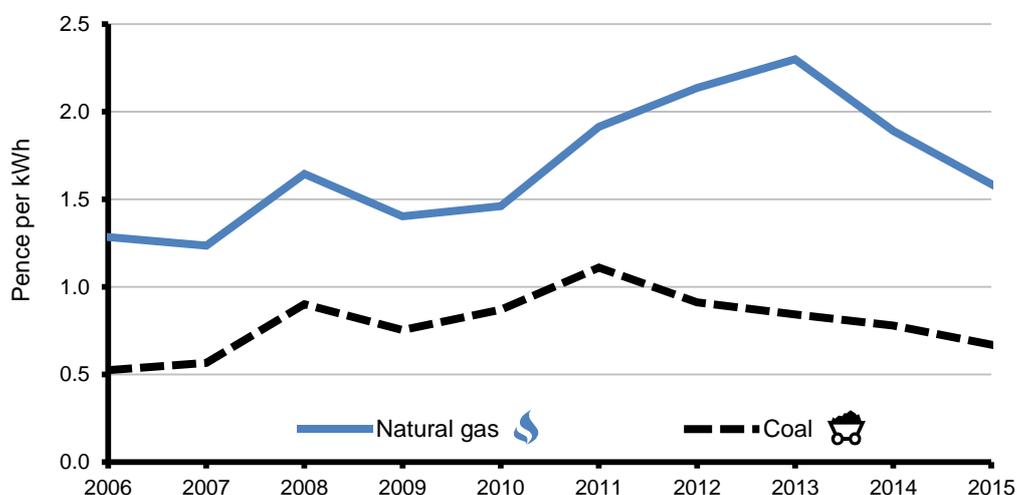
Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016 the price in cash terms of coal for power stations fell by 7 per cent whilst the price of gas fell by 31 per cent. In Q1 2016, the price of coal in p/kWh was around than half the price of gas, as shown in Chart 18. The price gap between coal and gas in p/kWh in cash terms in Q1 2016 was 0.6 pence, the lowest level since Q3 2010. Compared to Q4 2015, the price of coal in cash terms has risen by 8.8 per cent whilst the price of gas has decreased by 9.2 per cent.

Chart 18 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 16 per cent, whilst the price of coal fell by 14 per cent.

Chart 19 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](#)

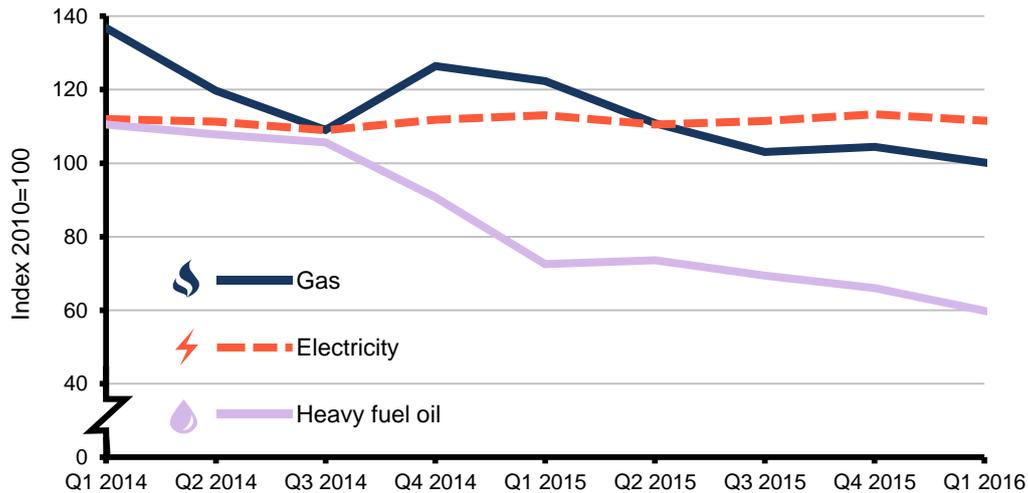
Fuel price indices for the industrial sector

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.

Section 3 – Industrial Prices

Average industrial gas prices including the Climate Change Levy (CCL) fell by 18 per cent in real terms between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016, whilst industrial electricity prices including CCL fell marginally down 1.3 per cent, as shown in Chart 20. Over the same period the price of coal decreased by 5.7 per cent in real terms and the price of heavy fuel oil decreased by 18 per cent. The inclusion of CCL increases the average price of coal by around 7 per cent and the average price of electricity and gas by 3.6 and 4.6 per cent respectively in Q1 2016.

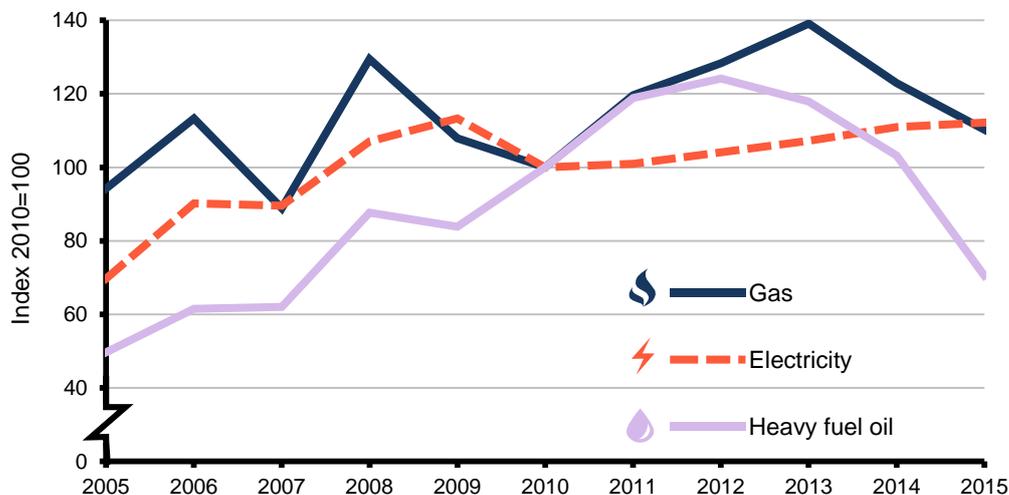
Chart 20 Industrial fuel price indices⁽¹⁾ - quarterly



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

The average price of heavy fuel oil in 2015 compared to 2010 has decreased by 29 per cent in real terms, with a decrease of 32 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 12 per cent in real terms since 2010, and has fallen marginally in the latest year.

Chart 21 Industrial fuel price indices⁽¹⁾ - annual



Section 3 – Industrial Prices

(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](#)

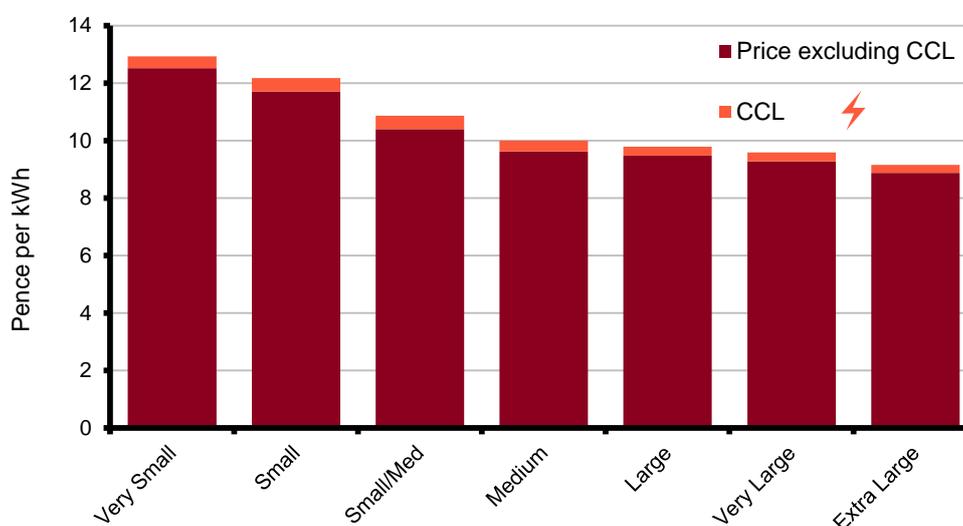
Gas and electricity prices for the non-domestic sector in the UK

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 fallen in cash terms between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016 by an average of 1.7 per cent. Prices for very small consumers fell by 7 per cent, whilst other changes ranged from falls of 0.9 to 1.9 per cent. The average price of electricity, including the climate change levy, decreased by 0.7 per cent. Chart 22 shows how current prices vary by size band.

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 Q1 2016, the inclusion of CCL increases the average price of electricity by between 3.0 and 4.5 per cent.

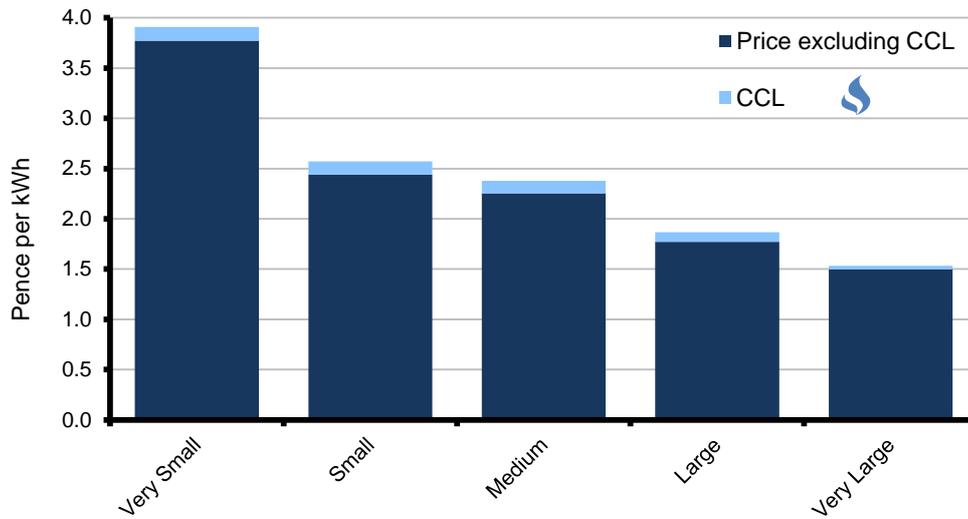
Chart 22 UK non-domestic electricity prices Q1 2016



Average gas prices excluding CCL have fallen in cash terms between Q1 2015 and Q1 2016 by an average of 12 per cent. Prices by size band have fallen by between 12 and 15 per cent for smaller and medium consumers and by between 18 and 20 per cent for larger consumers. Prices for the smallest consumers fell only marginally down 2 per cent. Average current prices in Q1 2016 have fallen by 20 per cent on the high reached in Q1 2014. Chart 23 shows how current prices vary by size band.

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 Q1 2016, the inclusion of CCL increases the average price of gas by between 2.5 and 5.5 per cent.

Chart 23 UK non-domestic gas prices Q1 2016



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

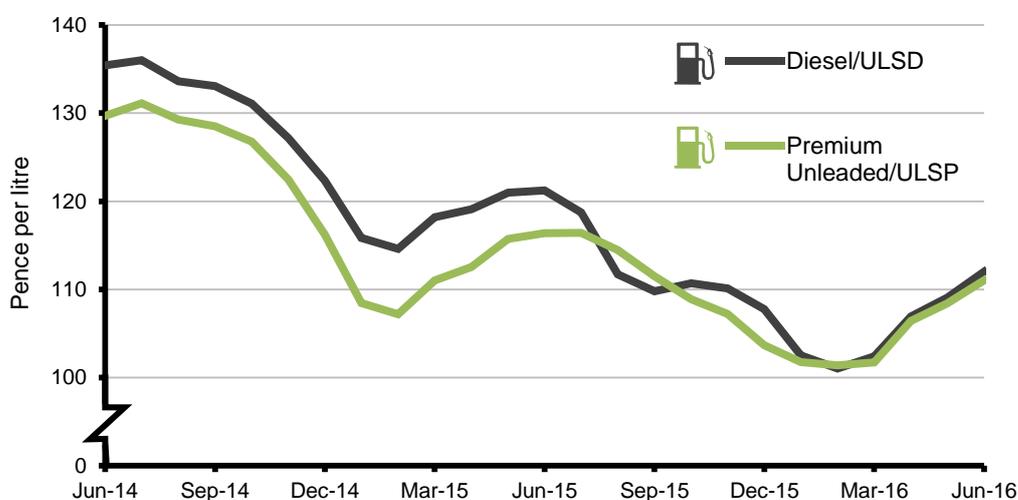
- The price of petrol in June 2016 is 4.6 per cent (5.4 pence) lower than a year ago, at 111.0 pence per litre, whilst diesel is 7.6 per cent (9.3 pence) lower at 112.0 pence per litre. Petrol prices are around 31 pence lower than their peak in April 2012 whilst diesel prices are around 36 pence lower.
- The price of crude oil purchased by UK refineries in May 2016 was 18 per cent lower than a year ago. The price in June was around \$50 per barrel, an increase on prices since the start of the year but considerably below the period between February 2011 and September 2014, when prices were above \$100 per barrel.

Retail prices of petroleum products

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 in June 2016 are around 31 pence lower than that peak, whilst diesel prices are around 36 pence lower. Prices are also affected by duty rate changes, as listed in Annex C, and by changes in the general rate of VAT.

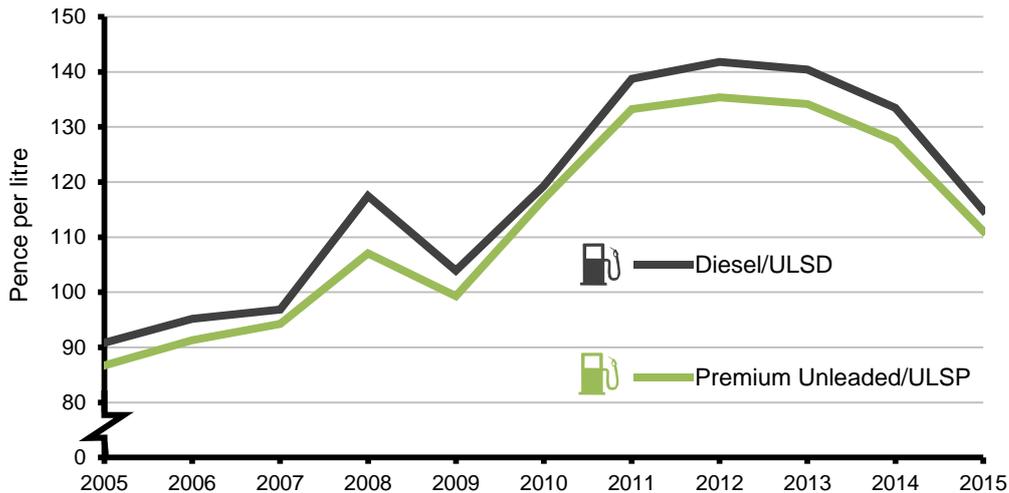
Chart 24 shows that, in mid-June 2016, a litre of ULSP was on average 111.0 pence, 2.6 pence per litre higher than the previous month but 5.4 pence per litre lower than a year ago. Diesel prices were 112.0 pence per litre, 2.9 pence per litre higher than the previous month but 9.3 pence per litre lower than a year ago.

Chart 24 Retail prices of motor spirits - quarterly



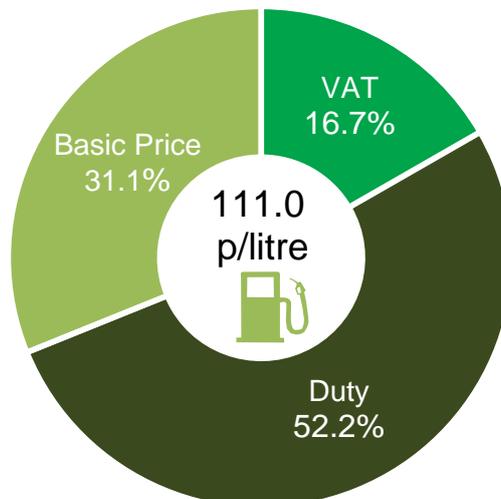
Annual 2015 prices of ULSP and ULSD were lower than the record highs of 2012 by 18 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, as shown in Chart 25. The differential between ULSP and ULSD in 2015 was 3.8 pence per litre, a fall on 2014. Motor fuel prices increased at a steady rate from the Gulf crisis in 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, and then dropped sharply in 2015.

Chart 25 Retail prices of motor spirits - annual



The price of unleaded petrol, excluding tax, in June 2016 is 43 per cent lower than the peak in April 2012. The price of diesel, excluding taxes, is 46 per cent lower than the April 2012 peak. Chart 26 shows the components of the retail price of petrol in June 2016: the basic price of 34.6 pence per litre, duty at 57.95 pence per litre, and VAT at 20 per cent (18.5 pence per litre).

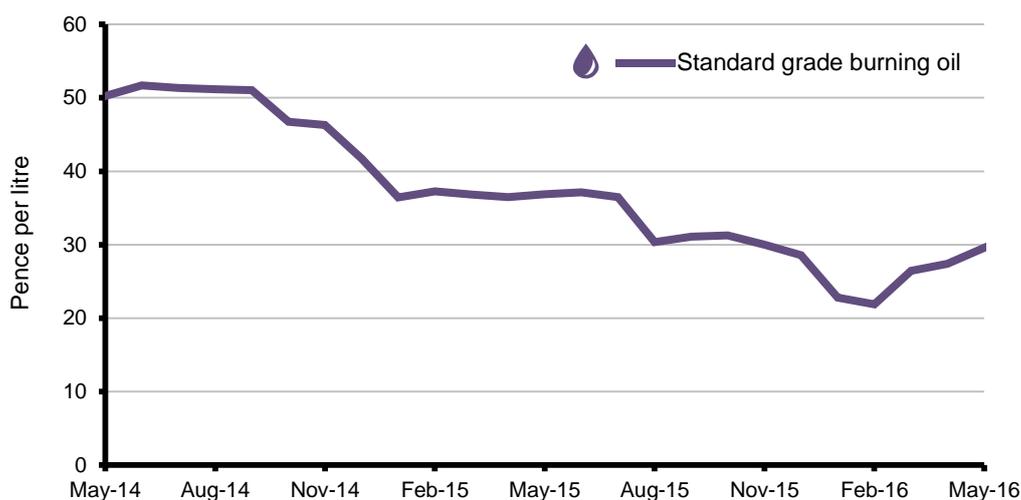
Chart 26 Component price of unleaded petrol, June 2016



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 May 2016 was 54 per cent lower than February 2013, which was the highest level since July 2008. The price of gas oil in February 2016 was 44 per cent lower than April 2012, which was the highest level since our records started in 1989. In May 2016 the price of SGBO was 7.3 per cent lower than a year ago, as shown in Chart 27, whilst gas oil was 7.4 per cent lower.

Chart 27 Retail prices of heating oil⁽¹⁾



(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.

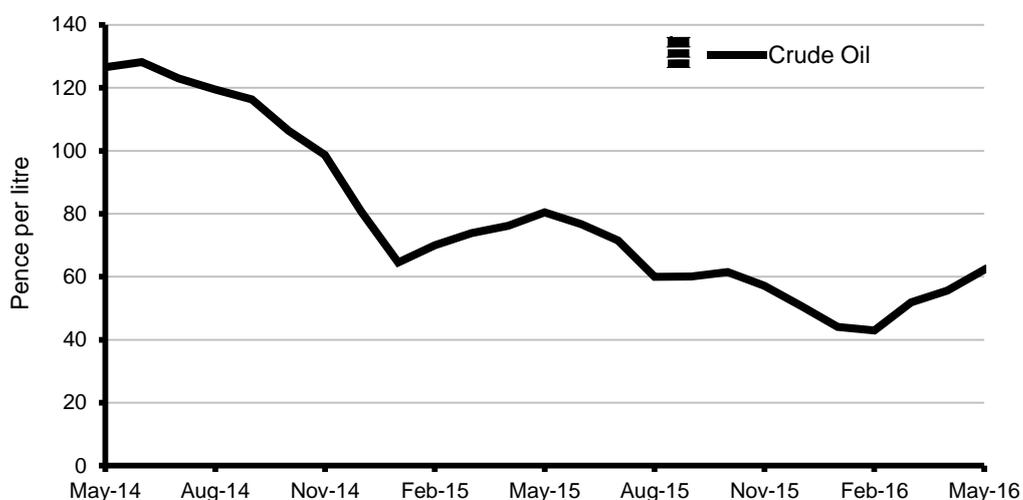
The price of crude oil can change for a variety of reasons, such as: oil shortages (1973); over-supply and weak demand (1998); hurricanes (2005); the global recession (2008-9); and geopolitical tensions (2008 onwards). In July 2008, average monthly crude oil prices reached a new high in real terms, 10.5 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. Prices have subsequently risen, as supply has been affected by Canada fires, and some OPEC supply outages.

OPEC’s 169th Meeting took place on 2 June 2016 in Vienna. Since the last meeting in December 2015, it was noted that crude oil prices had risen by 80 per cent, and that oil and product stock levels in the OECD remained above their five-year average. In terms of supply and demand, non-OPEC supply is expected to contract in 2016, while global demand is anticipated to expand again by 1.2 million barrels per day (mb/d). In line with the previous meeting, no decision was reached regarding the production level, previously 30 mb/d. The next meeting will convene on 30 November 2016.

Chart 28 shows the price of crude oil acquired by UK refineries. In May 2016 the price was 18 per cent lower than a year ago. Prices are 60 per cent lower than March 2012, which was the highest level since our records began in 1991.

Chart 28 Index⁽¹⁾ 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 (May 2011 to May 2016) the average cost of crude oil acquired by refineries has decreased by around 55 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 May 2016 the UK price for petrol was the eighth highest in the EU 15 at 108.4 pence per litre, whilst the UK price for diesel was the highest in the EU 15 at 109.1 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 sixth lowest in the EU 15.
- For July to December 2015, UK domestic electricity prices for medium consumers including tax were the eighth highest in the EU 15, whilst domestic gas prices for medium consumers including tax were the third 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).

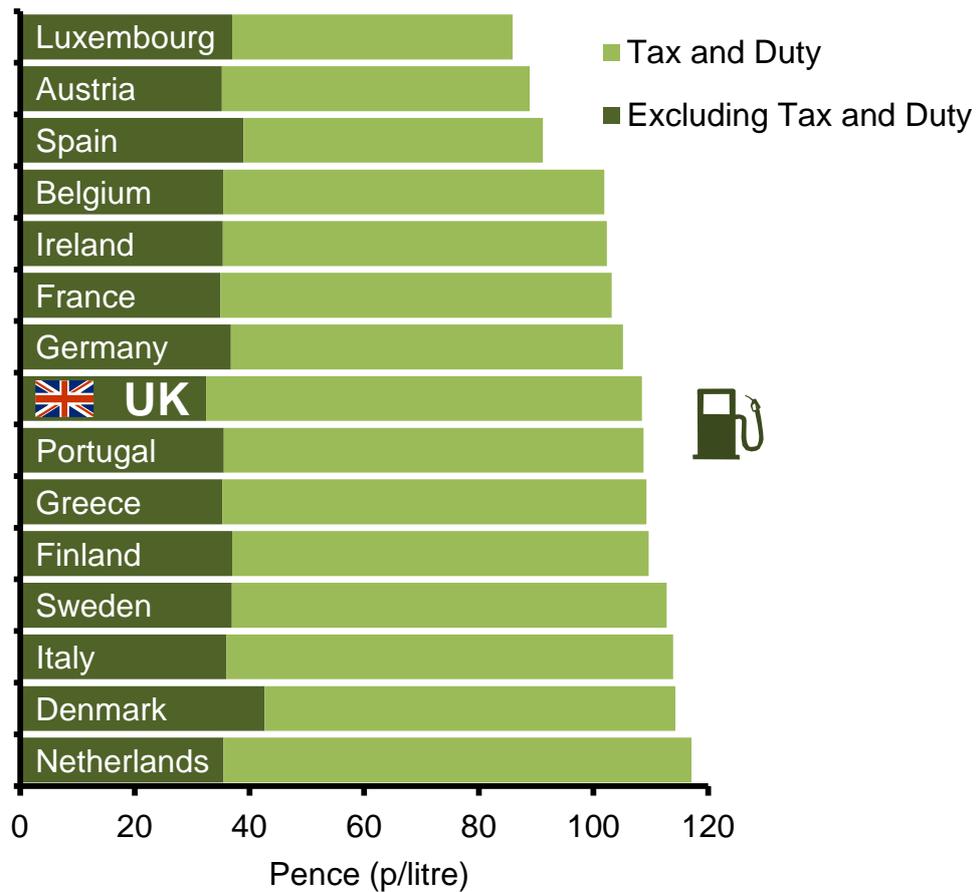
Unleaded petrol and Diesel prices

Premium unleaded petrol prices

Chart 29 shows that average UK unleaded petrol prices, including taxes, in May 2016 were the eighth highest in the EU 15 at 108.4 pence per litre when presented in a common currency basis. The lowest price was in Luxembourg at 85.9 pence per litre while the highest price was in the Netherlands at 117.1 pence per litre.

Average UK unleaded petrol prices, excluding taxes, in May 2016 were the lowest within the EU 15 at 32.4 pence per litre. The highest price was in the Denmark at 42.7 pence per litre.

Chart 29 Premium unleaded petrol prices, May 2016



Source: European Commission Oil Bulletin

Link to table:

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

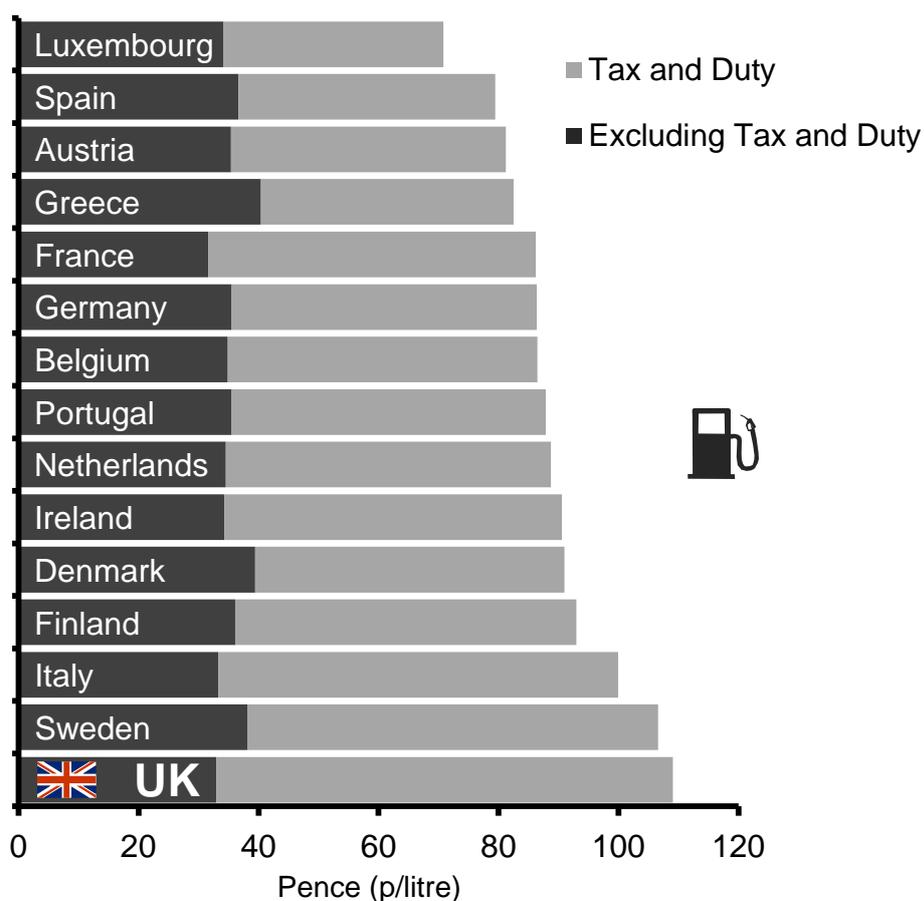
Diesel prices

Chart 30 shows that average UK diesel prices, including taxes, in May 2016 were the highest within the EU 15 at 109.1 pence per litre when presented in a common currency basis. The lowest price was in Luxembourg at 70.8 pence per litre.

The high UK diesel price is mainly due to the taxes levied, which formed 70 per cent of the total price in May 2016, compared to a range of 51 to 67 per cent in the rest of the EU 15.

Average UK diesel prices, excluding taxes, in May 2016 were the second lowest within the EU 15 at 32.9 pence per litre. The lowest price was in France at 31.6 pence per litre while the highest price was in the Greece at 40.4 pence per litre.

Chart 30 Diesel prices, May 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.

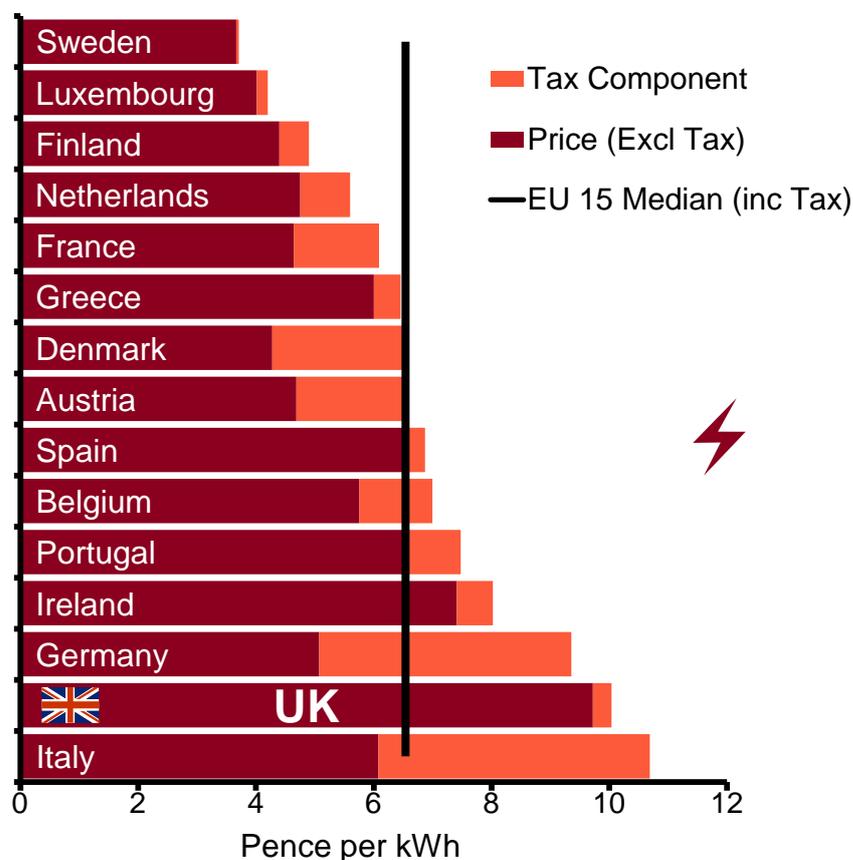
Rankings may differ between the IEA and Eurostat tables. Charts include data available at the time of publication. The black line on the charts shows the median across all countries in the EU 15 where data is available.

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 53 per cent above the EU 15 median of 6.5 pence per kWh. The UK price for medium consumers excluding taxes was the highest in the EU 15 and was 92 per cent above the median price

of 5.1 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices in the UK for medium consumers including tax were the second highest in the EU 15.

Chart 31 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. 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 EU 15 fell by an average of 15 per cent 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 2015, average UK industrial electricity prices, including taxes, were the fourth highest in the IEA, fourth lowest in the G7, and were 43 per cent above the IEA median price. UK industrial electricity prices were 5 per cent cheaper than in Japan, but more than double the price in the USA.

The UK price remained broadly unchanged between 2014 and 2015 compared to falls for most other countries. The difference in growth rates was partly driven by movements in exchange rates, with the pound appreciating by around 11 per cent against the euro between 2014 and 2015.

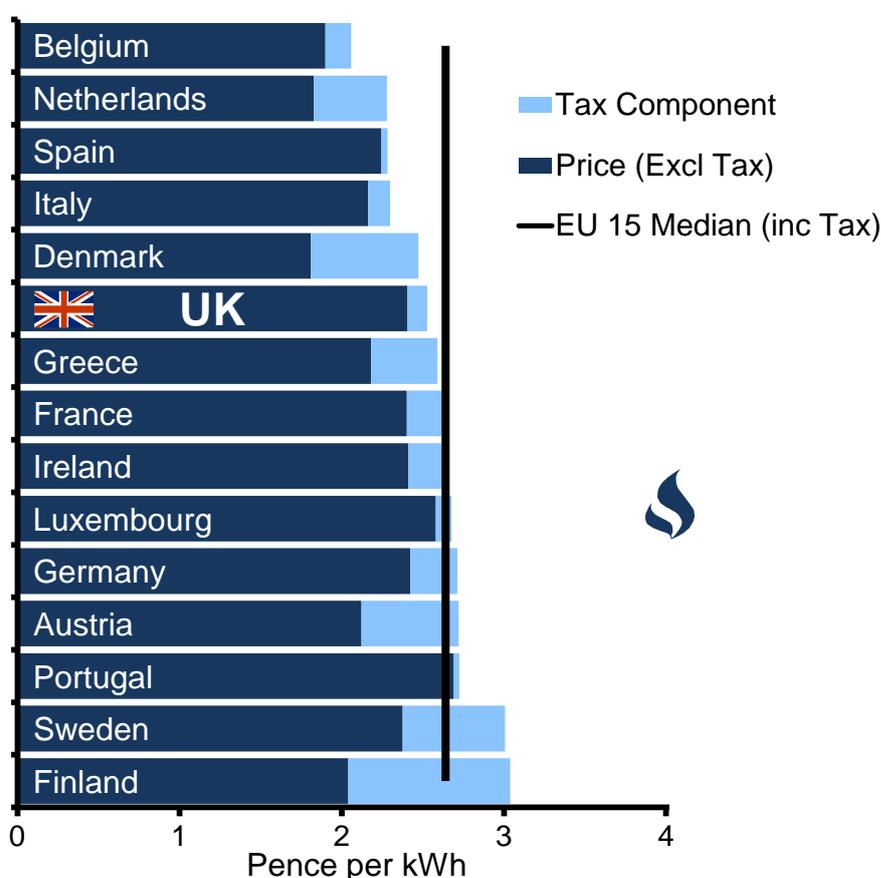
Link to table:

[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 sixth lowest in the EU 15 and were 4 per cent below the median price of 2.6 pence per kWh. UK prices excluding taxes for medium consumers were the fifth highest in the EU 15 and were 7 per cent above the EU 15 median of 2.2 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices in the UK for medium consumers including tax were the fourth lowest in the EU 15.

Chart 32 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.
 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 EU 15 generally fell by a greater margin of 17 percent on average 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 2015, average UK industrial gas prices, including taxes where not refunded, were the eighth lowest in the IEA, third lowest in the G7, and were 9 per cent below the IEA median. UK industrial gas prices were 57 per cent cheaper than in Japan, but more than double the price in the USA.

Link to table:

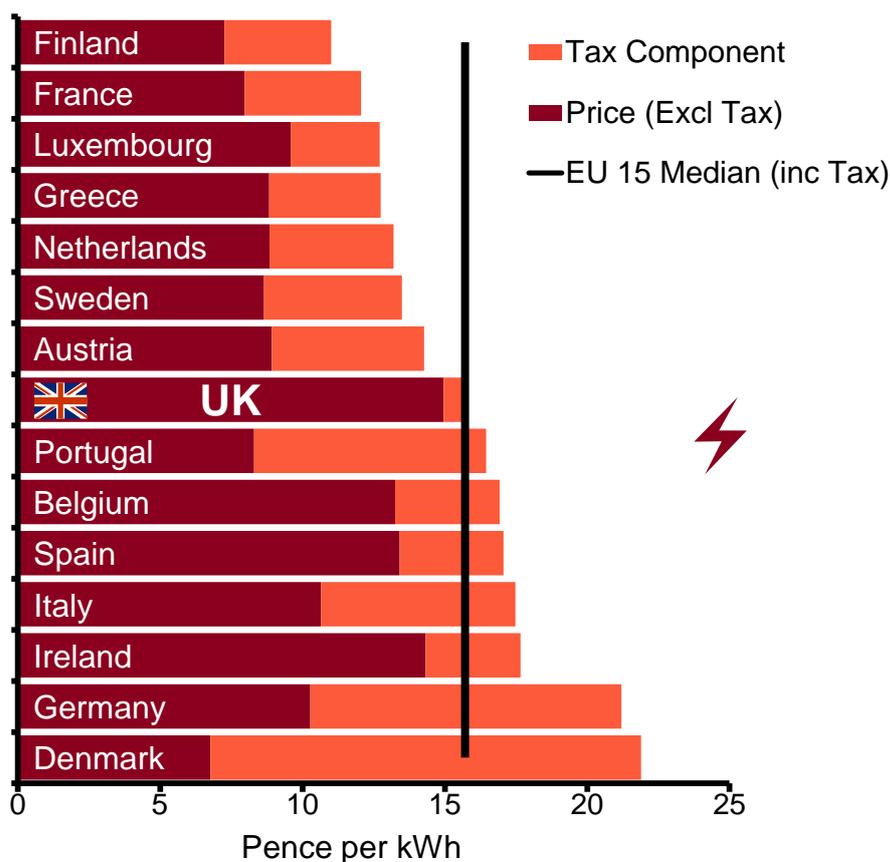
Table 5.7.1: Industrial gas prices in the IEA including and excluding taxes

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 eighth highest in the EU 15 and was the EU 15 median price at 15.7 pence per kWh. The UK price excluding taxes was the highest in the EU 15 and was 68 per cent above the median level of 8.9 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices in the UK for medium consumers including tax were the eighth highest in the EU 15.

Chart 33 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. 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 EU

15 fell by a greater margin during this period of 7 per cent on average. 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 2015, average UK domestic electricity prices, including taxes, were the seventh highest in the IEA and third highest in the G7. This was 21 per cent above the IEA median. UK domestic electricity prices were 5 per cent higher than in Japan and 88 per cent higher than in the USA.

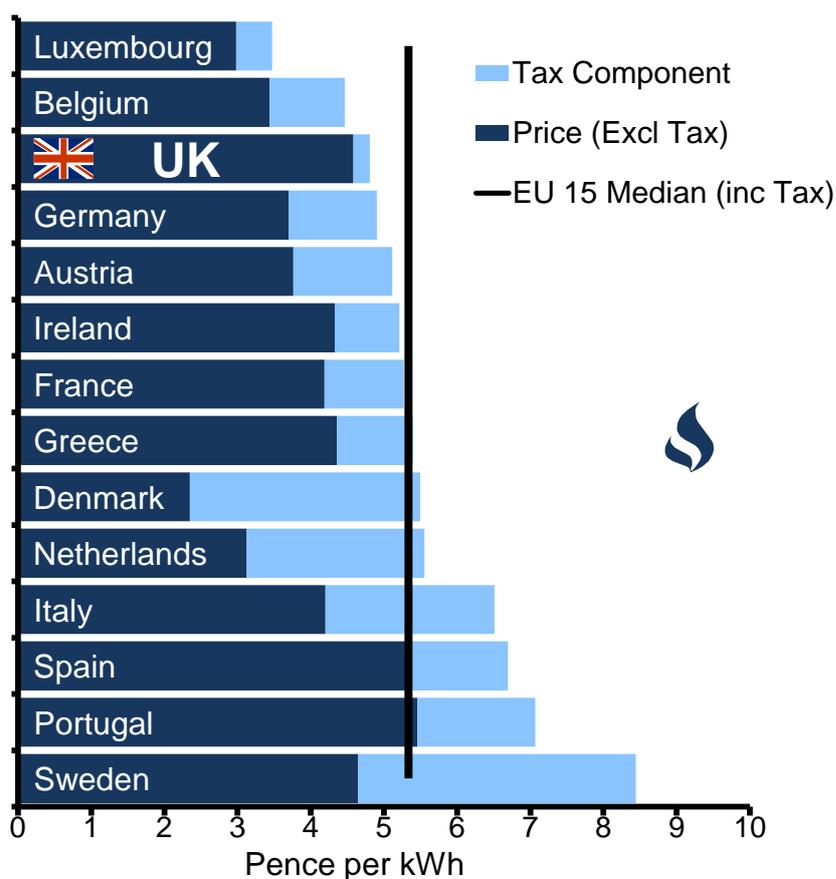
Link to table:

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

Domestic gas prices

The average UK domestic gas prices, including taxes, for medium consumers for the period July to December 2015 were the third lowest in the EU 15 and were 10 per cent lower than the median of 5.3 pence per kWh. The UK price excluding taxes was the fifth highest in the EU 15 and was 9 per cent higher than the median price of 4.2 pence per kWh. Annual 2015 prices in the UK for medium consumers including tax were the third lowest in the EU 15.

Chart 34 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. 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 EU 15 fell by a greater margin during this period of 13 per cent on average. 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 2015, average UK domestic gas prices, including taxes, were the thirteenth lowest in the IEA, fourth lowest in the G7, and were 1 per cent lower than the IEA median. UK domestic gas prices were 32 per cent cheaper than in Japan, but were nearly 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](#)

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| Chart 31 | Industrial electricity prices |
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| Chart 33 | Domestic electricity prices |
| Chart 34 | Domestic gas prices |

