



Date: 22 December 2015

STATISTICAL PRESS RELEASE

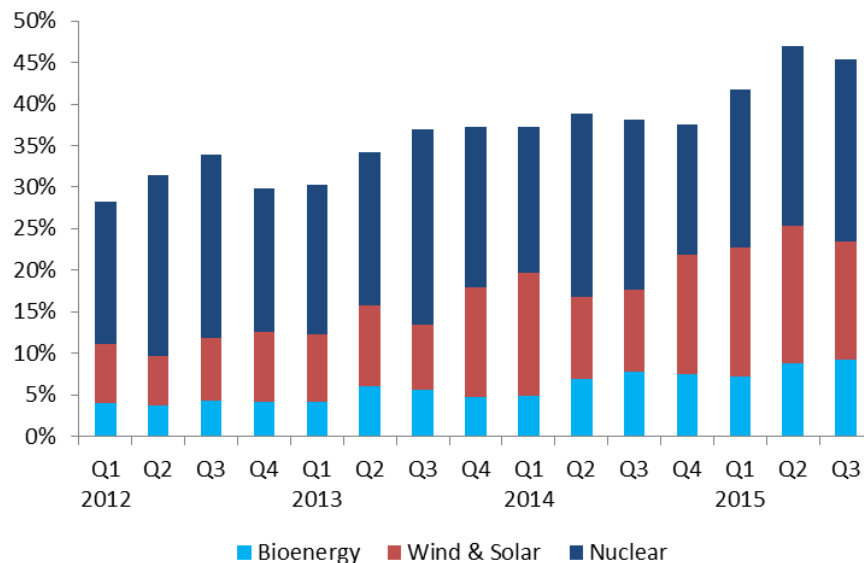
UK Energy Statistics, Q3 2015

Energy Trends and Energy Prices publications are published today 22 December 2015 by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Energy Trends covers statistics on energy production and consumption, in total and by fuel, and provides an analysis of the year on year changes. Energy Prices covers prices to domestic and industrial consumers, prices of oil products and comparisons of international fuel prices.

- Low carbon electricity's share of generation accounted for 45.3 per cent in the third quarter of 2015, up from 38.1 per cent in the same period of 2014, with the fall in coal and gas generation offset by an increase in generation from renewables and nuclear.

Low carbon electricity's share of generation



The main points for the third quarter of 2015 are:

- UK energy production rose by 11.9 per cent in the third quarter of 2015 compared with a year earlier. Production of oil increased by 27 per cent, partly because production was very low in the third quarter of 2014 due to maintenance at Buzzard, the UK's largest oil field. However production in 2015 has been boosted by the start-up of the Golden Eagle field in the last 12 months. Production of gas rose by 10.0 per cent.
- Primary energy consumption for energy uses rose by 0.5 per cent, however when adjusted to take account of weather differences between the third quarter of 2014 and the third quarter of 2015, primary energy consumption fell by 0.6 per cent.
- Final energy consumption (excluding non-energy use) rose by 2.6 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2014. Domestic consumption rose by 6.2 per cent reflecting the cooler weather in the quarter, service sector consumption rose by 6.1 per cent and transport sector rose by 1.5 per cent, whilst industrial energy consumption fell by 2.4 per cent; On a temperature corrected basis, final energy consumption rose by 1.1 per cent.
- Of electricity generated in the third quarter of 2015, gas accounted for 34.9 per cent, whilst coal accounted for 17.1 per cent as a result of reduced capacity due to the conversion of a unit at Drax from coal to biomass and the reduction in generation at some plants due to market conditions, in addition to an increase in the carbon price floor from April 2015. Nuclear generation accounted for 21.8 per cent, whilst renewables share increased by 5.9 percentage points to 23.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2015.
- Provisional data for 2015 suggest that domestic energy bills decreased by 3 per cent. For fixed consumption levels of electricity of 3,800 kWh per annum, bills decreased by £8 to £584; and for fixed consumption levels of gas of 15,000 kWh per annum, bills decreased by £37 to £715.
- Petrol prices fell in December 2015 to below £1.04 per litre, the lowest price for six years.

For more detailed information on methodology, quality assurance and use of the data, please refer to the methodology notes available by energy sector on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/about/statistics

The December 2015 edition of Energy Trends also includes articles on:

- Electricity generation and supply figures for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, 2011 to 2014 (see commentary on page 15)
- Physical gas flows across Europe and diversity of gas supply in 2014
- Feed-in Tariff load factor analysis



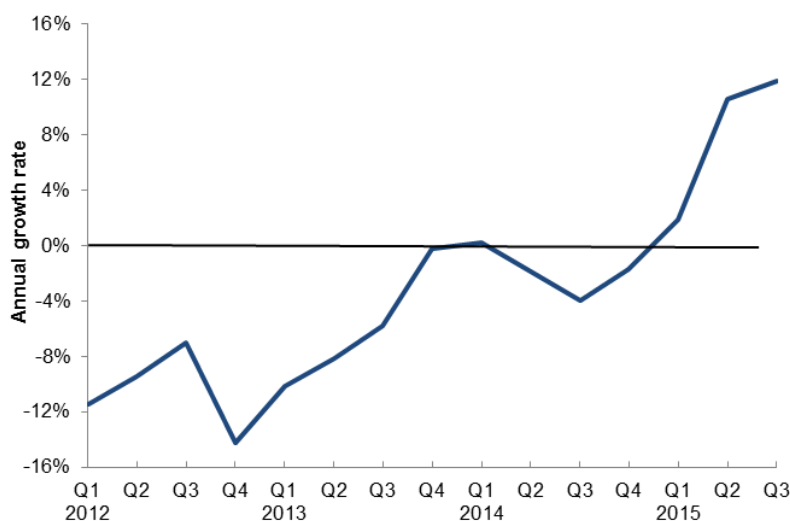
The following statistics are also published today, 22 December 2015, by the Department of Energy and Climate Change:

- Feed-in Tariff commissioned installations
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-small-scale-renewable-deployment
- Solar photovoltaics deployment
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/solar-photovoltaics-deployment
- Sub-national electricity consumption
www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data
- Sub-national gas consumption
www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-gas-consumption-data
- Smart meters installations
www.gov.uk/government/collections/smart-meters-statistics
- Greenhouse Gas emissions quarterly statistics
www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-quarterly-official-statistics
- Sub-national electricity consumption in Northern Ireland
www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-in-northern-ireland.



TOTAL ENERGY: QUARTER 3 2015

Total Energy - Production



	2015 Q3 <i>Million tonnes of oil equivalent</i>	Percentage change on a year earlier
Total production	27.5	+11.9
Oil	11.4	+27.3
Natural gas	8.8	+9.9
Primary electricity ⁽¹⁾	4.5	+12.1
Coal	0.9	-52.1

(1) Nuclear and wind, solar & natural flow hydro electricity

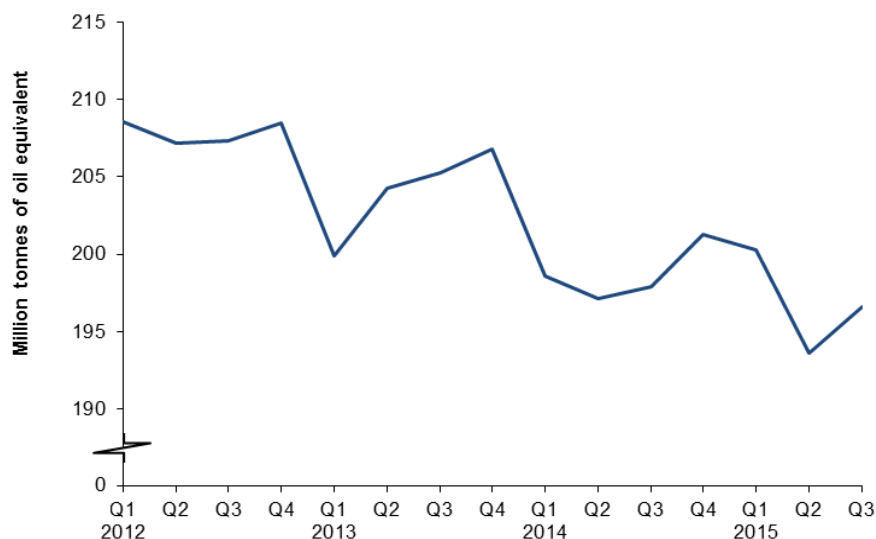
- Total energy production in the third quarter of 2015 was 27.5 million tonnes of oil equivalent, 11.9 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 2014.
- Production of oil rose by 27 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2014, due to very low crude oil production in August 2014, which was largely the result of planned maintenance at Buzzard, the UK's largest oil field. Production of gas rose by 9.9 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2014, when maintenance work affected production issues.
- Primary electricity output in the third quarter of 2015 was 12.1 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 2014, within which nuclear electricity output was 5.8 per cent higher, whilst output from wind, solar and natural flow hydro was 46 per cent higher than the same period in 2014, due to higher wind speeds and increased wind and solar capacity, and a 18.4 per cent increase in rainfall levels.
- In the third quarter of 2015 production of coal and other solid fuels was 52 per cent lower than the corresponding period of 2014. This was due to mines closing and some other mines producing less coal as they are coming to the end of operation.

Total energy quarterly tables ET 1.1 – 1.3 are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/total-energy-section-1-energy-trends



TOTAL ENERGY: QUARTER 3 2015

Total Energy – consumption⁽¹⁾



(1) Total inland consumption on a primary fuel input basis (seasonally adjusted and temperature corrected annual rates).

	2015 Q3 Million tonnes of oil equivalent	Percentage change on a year earlier
Total consumption		
Unadjusted	41.3	+0.5
Seasonally adjusted and temperature corrected – annual rate	196.6	-0.6
Final consumption	30.6	+2.6

When examining seasonally adjusted and temperature corrected annualised rates:

- Total inland consumption on a primary fuel input basis was 196.6 million tonnes of oil equivalent in the third quarter of 2015, 0.6 per cent lower than the same quarter in 2014.
- Between the third quarter of 2014 and the third quarter of 2015, coal and other solid fuel consumption fell by 21 per cent driven by decreased coal use in electricity generation.
- Oil consumption rose by 2.4 per cent, whilst gas consumption fell by 0.6 per cent.
- Primary electricity consumption rose by 12.4 per cent, with rises in wind, solar and hydro of 45 per cent and in nuclear of 4.7 per cent.

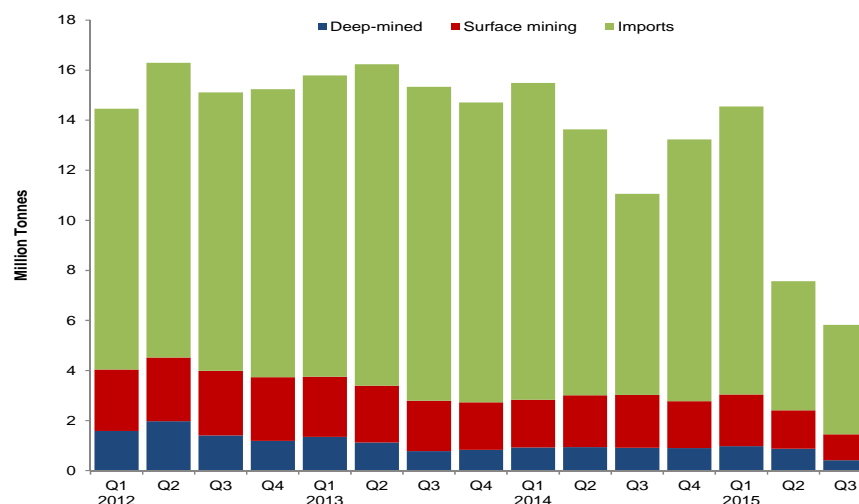
Final consumption was 2.6 per cent higher in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same quarter a year earlier. The average temperature in the third quarter of 2015 was 1.1 degrees Celsius cooler than the same period a year earlier. On a temperature corrected basis, final energy consumption was 1.1 per cent higher over the same period.

Total energy quarterly tables ET 1.1 – 1.3 are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/total-energy-section-1-energy-trends



COAL: QUARTER 3 2015

Coal production and imports



	2015 Q3 Thousand tonnes	Percentage change on a year earlier
Coal production	1,455	-52.0
Coal imports	4,366	-45.6
Coal demand	7,071	-19.1
- Power stations	5,045	-18.9
- Coke ovens & blast furnaces	1,220	-27.4
- Final users	635	-2.6

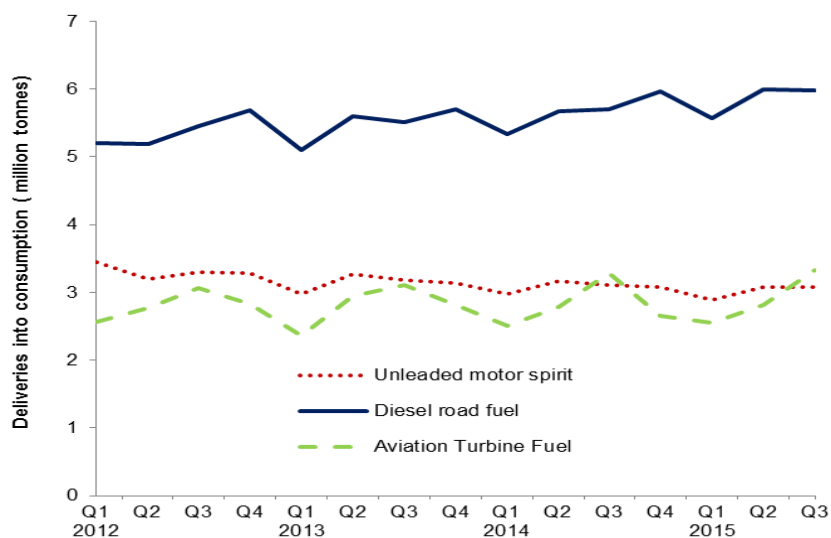
- Provisional figures for the third quarter of 2015 show that coal production was down 52 per cent on the third quarter of 2014 at 1.5 million tonnes (a record low) due to less demand from electricity generators and some mines producing less coal as they approach the end of their operating lives.
- Imports of coal in the third quarter of 2015 were 46 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 2013 at 4.4 million tonnes (lowest value for at least 17 years), reflecting lower demand from electricity generators.
- Total demand for coal in the third quarter of 2015, at 7.1 million tonnes (a record low), was 19.1 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 2014. Consumption by electricity generators was down by 18.9 per cent to 5.0 million tonnes, due to the reduction in generation at some plants due to market conditions, along with an increase in the carbon price floor from April 2015, and a third unit of Drax being converted to biomass in July 2015.
- Coal used on coke manufacture fell 30 per cent in the third quarter of 2015 to 0.9 million tonnes (a new record low). This was due to Monckton (the sole dedicated coke plant) ceasing production on 16 December 2014, problems at Scunthorpe steelworks and SSI steelworks at Redcar ceasing production in mid-September.
- At the end of September 2015, coal stocks stood at 17.0 million tonnes and were 1.4 million tonnes lower than at the end of June 2015, which was due to power stations using up stocks rather than buying more coal. Coal stocks were 1.6 million tonnes lower than at the end of September 2014.

Coal quarterly tables ET 2.1 – 2.3 are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/solid-fuels-and-derived-gases-section-2-energy-trends



OIL: QUARTER 3 2015

Demand for key transport fuels



	2015 Q3 Thousand tonnes	Percentage change on a year earlier
Primary oil production	10,441	+27.4
Refinery throughput	16,220	+6.8
Net imports (all oil)	7,734	-18.0
Petroleum demand	16,078	+2.2
- Motor spirit (unleaded, including biofuels)	3,235	-1.1
- DERV (diesel including biofuels)	6,134	+3.2
- Aviation turbine fuel	3,330	+1.5

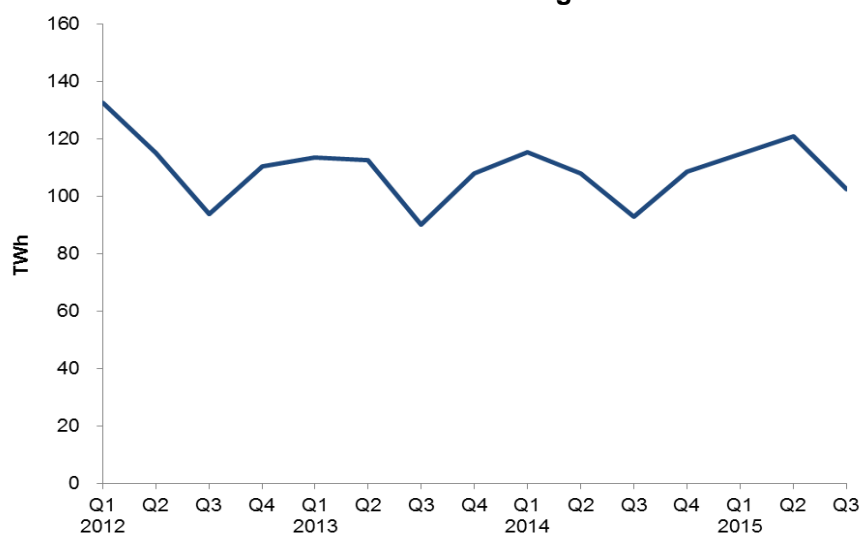
- Total indigenous UK production of crude oil and Natural Gas Liquids in Q3 2014 was a record 27.4 per cent higher than a year ago. Although notable, the change is exaggerated by very low crude oil production in August 2014, which was largely the result of planned maintenance at Buzzard, the UK's largest oil field. In the year to date production is up 10.9 per cent, and has been boosted by the new field Golden Eagle coming online.
- Refinery production in Q3 2015 was up 7.3 per cent on the same quarter of last year. Production was substantially higher, driven partially by low crude prices. Whilst domestic demand remains stable there is a strong market for exports, as evidenced by the notable increase in motor spirit exports in recent months. Longer term, there is an ongoing decline in UK refinery production. Imports of petroleum products were up on Q3 2014 by around 11 per cent and exports were up by 17 per cent due to the increase in production.
- The UK was a net importer of oil and oil products in the third quarter of 2015 by 7.7 million tonnes. In the same period of 2014 the UK was a net importer by 9.4 million tonnes.
- Overall demand for petroleum products was up by 2.2 per cent on last year, driven by demand for road diesel.

Oil quarterly tables ET 3.1 – 3.7 are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/oil-and-oil-products-section-3-energy-trends



GAS: QUARTER 3 2015

Production of natural gas



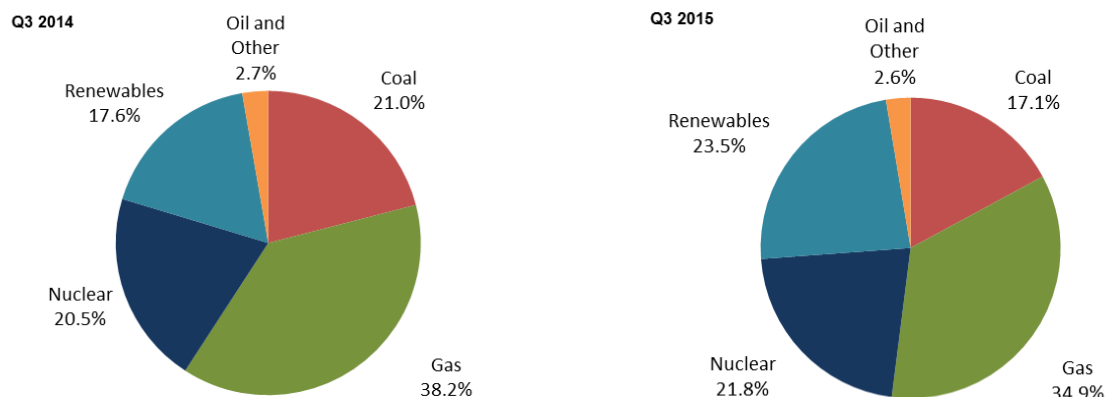
	2015 Q3 <i>TWh</i>	Percentage change on a year earlier
Gas production	102.3	10.0
Gas imports	100.9	12.8
Gas exports	51.6	28.6
Gas demand	134.9	-0.8
- Electricity generation	54.9	-11.7
- Domestic	24.1	15.6

- Total indigenous UK production of natural gas in the third quarter of 2015 was 102.3 TWh, 10.0 per cent higher than in the same quarter a year earlier and continuing the trend of strong growth this year. Whilst maintenance depressed production in quarter 3 of 2014, the growth rates are notable and a result of increased production from existing terminals and the opening of new gas fields in 2014.
- In the third quarter of 2015, imports of gas were 12.8 per cent higher than the same quarter of 2014. The source of the increased imports was primarily pipeline imports, up 34 per cent year-on-year to 63 TWh. LNG imports decreased slightly to account for 38 per cent of total gas imports, down from 46 per cent a year ago. Exports of gas increased by 29 per cent in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014, mainly due to a 58 per cent increase of exports to Belgium via the Interconnector. This quarter marks the largest volume of gas exports to Belgium since 2011.
- Overall gas demand is broadly similar to last year, down 0.8 per cent. Energy industry use is up 13.5 per cent, reflecting continued strong growth in oil and gas production. Gas used for electricity generation is down 11.7 per cent, as a result of power station outages during August, lower coal prices and an increased proportion of renewables used in generation. Final consumption of gas is up 8.2 per cent. Within this, consumption by domestic and other final users is up 15.6 and 7.0 per cent respectively due in part to the colder weather in the most recent quarter.

Gas quarterly table ET 4.1 is available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/gas-section-4-energy-trends



ELECTRICITY: QUARTER 3 2015



	2015 Q3 <i>TWh</i>	Percentage change on a year earlier
Electricity Generated from		
Coal	13.00	-18.8
Nuclear	16.56	+5.8
Gas	26.51	-9.1
Renewables	13.42	+33.1
Total	75.94	-0.5
Supplied to		
Industry	23.04	-1.2
Domestic	22.51	-0.03
Other final consumers	25.20	+4.7
All	70.75	+1.2

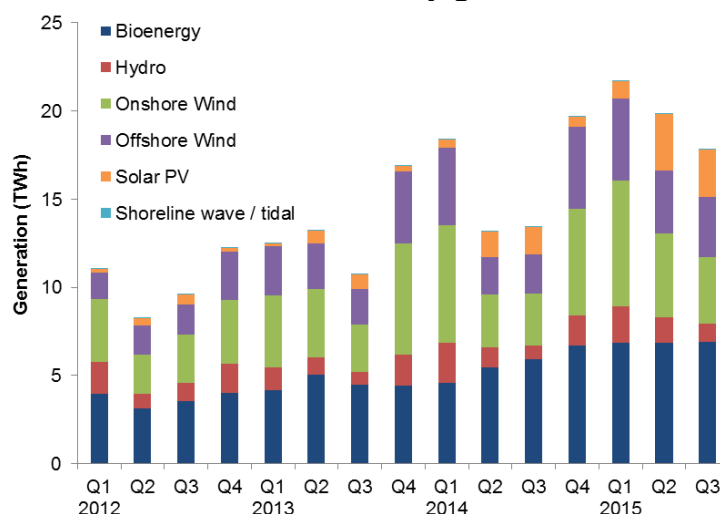
- Fuel used by generators in the third quarter of 2015 was 1.7 per cent lower than in the third quarter of 2014.
- Generation from coal in the third quarter of 2015 fell by 18.8 per cent as a result of reduced capacity due to the conversion of a unit at Drax from coal to biomass and the reduction in generation at some plants due to market conditions, in addition to an increase in the carbon price floor from April 2015. Gas fell by 9 per cent compared with a year earlier. Nuclear rose by 5.8 per cent. Renewables generation was up 33 per cent, mainly due to increased wind and solar capacity.
- Low carbon generation (including renewables) accounted for 45.3 per cent of generation in Q3 2015, up from 38.1 per cent from the same period of 2014.
- Total electricity generated in the third quarter of 2015 was 0.5 per cent lower than a year earlier, though imports increased and accounted for 7 per cent of electricity supply.
- Final consumption of electricity was 1.2 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 2014.

Electricity quarterly tables ET 5.1 – 5.2 are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/electricity-section-5-energy-trends



RENEWABLES: QUARTER 3 2015

Renewable electricity generation



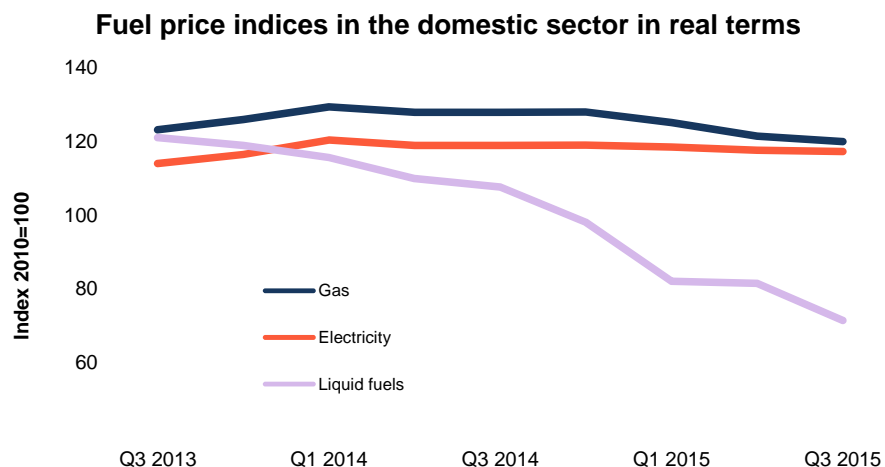
	2015 Q3 TWh	Percentage change on a year earlier
Renewable electricity generation		
Onshore wind	3.78	+30.0
Offshore wind	3.40	+51.7
Hydro	1.04	+33.5
Solar PV	2.68	+73.2
Bioenergy (inc. co-firing)	6.91	+16.3
All renewables	17.82	+32.7

- Renewables' share of electricity generation increased from 17.6 per cent in the third quarter of 2014, to 23.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2015.
- Renewable electricity generation was 17.8 TWh in the third quarter of 2015, an increase of 33 per cent on the 13.4 TWh in the third quarter of 2014. Solar PV showed the highest increase in generation, by 73 per cent, from 1.6 TWh in 2014 Q3 to 2.7 TWh in 2015 Q3. Bioenergy increased by 16.3 per cent, from 5.9 TWh in 2014 Q3 to 6.9 TWh in 2015 Q3, with increased biomass generation from the full conversion of a third unit at Drax from coal to biomass in July 2015. Generation from both onshore and offshore wind rose by 30 per cent and 52 per cent respectively, due to higher wind speeds and increased capacity. Generation from hydro rose by 33 per cent, due to higher levels of rainfall.
- Renewable electricity capacity was 29.7 GW at the end of the third quarter of 2015, a rise of 26 per cent (6.1 GW) on a year earlier. More than half (3.9 GW) of this increase was due to, mainly large-scale, solar photovoltaics, while onshore and offshore wind contributed 1.2 GW.
- Renewable transport: The share of liquid biofuels of petrol and diesel consumed in road transport fell from 4.2 per cent to 3.3 per cent. Biodiesel consumption was 35 per cent lower than a year earlier, while bioethanol consumption decreased by 3.3 per cent.

Renewables quarterly tables ET 6.1 – 6.2 are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewables-section-6-energy-trends



DOMESTIC PRICES: QUARTER 3 2015



Consumer price index fuel components in real terms ⁽¹⁾ 2010=100	2015 Q3	Percentage change on a year earlier
Solid fuels	102.8	-1.2
Gas	120.0	-6.2
Electricity	117.3	-1.4
Liquid fuels	71.4	-33.7
Total domestic fuel	117.0	-4.8

(1) Deflated using the GDP implied deflator. The original source of the indices is ONS.

- The price paid for all domestic fuels by household consumers has fallen by 4.8 per cent in real terms between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015, and by 1.0 per cent between Q2 and Q3 2015.
- Domestic electricity prices, including VAT, in Q3 2015 were 1.4 per cent lower in real terms than in Q3 2014. Prices were 0.3 per cent lower than in Q2 2015.
- The price of domestic gas, including VAT, fell by 6.2 per cent in real terms between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015 and by 1.2 per cent between Q2 and Q3 2015.
- The price of liquid fuels fell by 34 per cent between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015 and by 12 per cent between Q2 and Q3 2015.
- For the period January to June 2014, prices for medium domestic gas and electricity consumers, including tax, were the third lowest and eighth highest in the EU15 respectively.

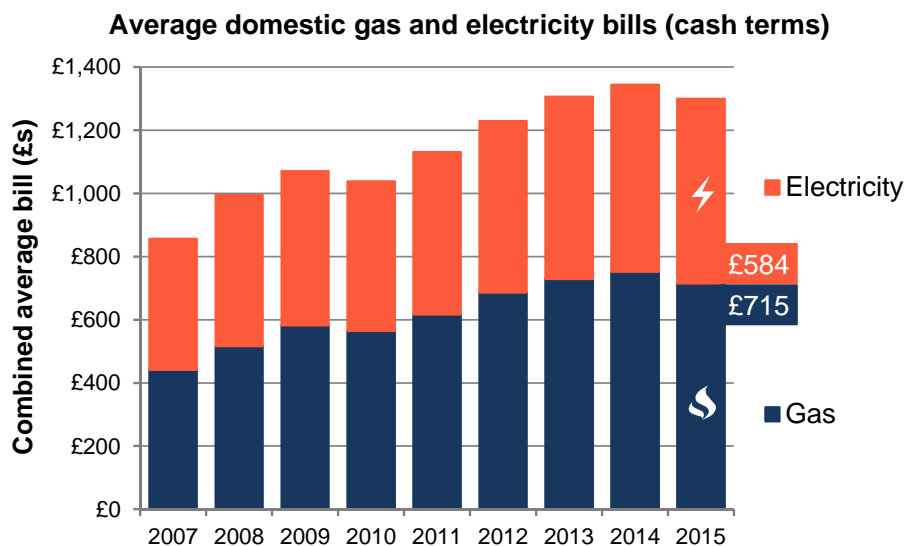
Switching levels

- Switching rates amongst consumers rose by 6 per cent for electricity and 28 per cent for gas between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015. For both electricity and gas, these transfers represent around 2.8 per cent of each of their domestic customers

Domestic prices tables are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-energy-prices



DOMESTIC ENERGY BILLS: 2015



Average annual domestic fuel bills ⁽¹⁾

	2014	2015 (p)	Percentage change, cash terms	Percentage change, real terms ⁽²⁾
Gas ⁽³⁾	£752	£715	-4.9	-6.0
Electricity ⁽⁴⁾	£592	£584	-1.4	-2.4
Total ⁽⁵⁾	£1,344	£1,299	-3.3	-4.4

(1) Average annual bills for domestic customers are weighted by the proportion of customers on the different payment methods, which include standard credit, direct debit and pre-payment meter. Bills relate to the total bill received in the calendar year and are in cash terms.

(2) To estimate the percentage change in real terms bills were deflated using the GDP (implied) deflator.

(3) Gas bills are based on an annual consumption of 15,000 kWh.

(4) Electricity bills are based on an annual consumption of 3,800 kWh.

(5) The average total gas and electricity bill presented should be taken as broadly indicative only. It is not based on individual customers, but is simply the sum of the averages for electricity and gas.

(p) Provisional bills only – final bills will be available in the March 2016 edition of 'Quarterly Energy Prices'.

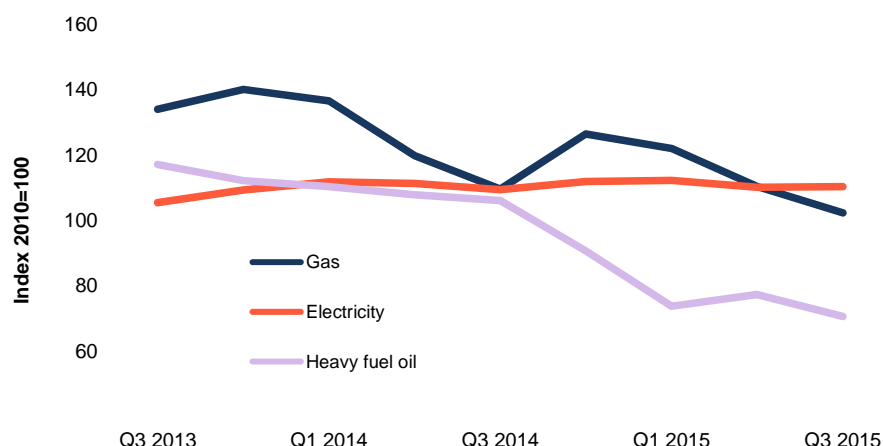
- Provisional 2015 figures for household bills show that the average standard electricity bill, based on a fixed consumption level of 3,800 kWh, decreased by £8 compared with 2014, to £584. The provisional average direct debit bill for 2015 was £560, while average provisional standard credit and pre-payment bills were £616 and £618 respectively. These figures include a £12 government rebate off electricity bills given to all customers in Great Britain in Q4 15.
- For gas, provisional 2015 figures show that the average domestic gas bill, based on a fixed consumption level of 15,000 kWh, fell by £37 compared with 2014, to £715. Average provisional direct debit bills in 2014 were £682, whilst average standard credit and prepayment bills were £761 and £760 respectively.
- Combined average domestic bills have been consistently rising since 2002 with the exception of a 3 per cent fall in 2010.

Domestic prices tables are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-energy-prices



INDUSTRIAL PRICES: QUARTER 3 2015

Industrial fuel price indices in real terms including the Climate Change Levy



Fuel prices index in real terms ⁽¹⁾ 2010=100	2015 Q3	Percentage change on a year earlier
Coal	91.6	-20.5
Heavy fuel oil	70.7	-33.4
Gas	102.3	-6.6
Electricity	110.3	+0.8
Total fuel	100.3	-7.9

(1) Deflated using the GDP implied deflator. Includes estimates of the average Climate Change Levy (CCL) paid.

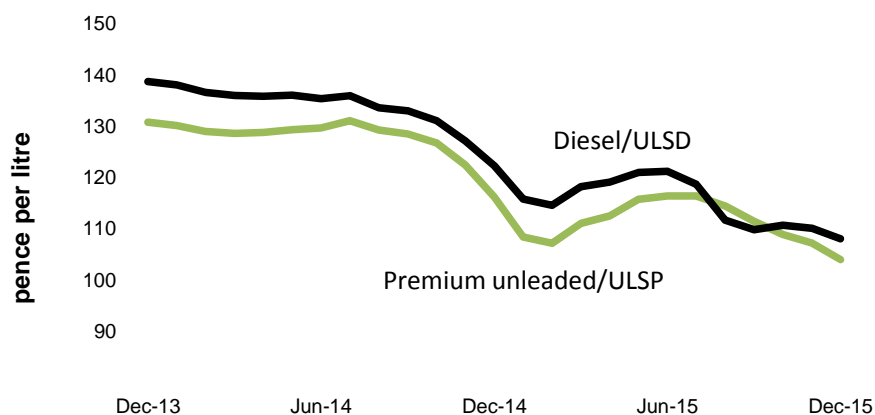
- Average industrial gas prices, including CCL, were 6.6 per cent lower in real terms in Q3 2015 compared to Q3 2014, whilst prices excluding CCL were 6.8 per cent lower.
- Average industrial electricity prices were 0.8 per cent higher including CCL and 0.5 per cent higher excluding CCL, in real terms, in Q3 2015 compared to Q3 2014.
- Average coal prices were 21 per cent higher in real terms including CCL and 22 per cent higher excluding CCL in Q3 2015 compared to Q3 2014. Heavy fuel oil prices were 33 per cent lower in real terms than a year ago.
- For the period January to June 2015, prices for industrial electricity consumers including taxes were generally above the EU15 median. UK industrial gas prices including tax were amongst the lowest in the EU15 for all sizebands of consumer.

Industrial prices tables are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-energy-prices



ROAD TRANSPORT FUEL PRICES: QUARTER 4 2015

Typical retail prices of road transport fuels



Retail prices of petroleum products	Mid December 2015 ⁽¹⁾ Pence per litre	Percentage change on a year earlier
Unleaded petrol ⁽²⁾	104.0	-10.5
Diesel ⁽²⁾	108.1	-11.7

(1) Prices are for ultra low sulphur versions of these fuels.

(2) Prices are provisional estimates.

- Crude oil prices have fallen considerably over the past few months, reaching a low of under \$40/barrel in mid-December compared to \$63/barrel in December 2014.
- In mid-December 2015, a litre of unleaded petrol was on average 104.0 pence per litre, 12 pence per litre lower than a year earlier and 38 pence per litre lower than the high reached in April 2012.
- In mid-December 2015, diesel was on average 108.1 pence per litre, 14 pence per litre lower than a year earlier and 40 pence per litre below the peak seen in April 2012.
- Provisional annual prices in 2015 were 13 per cent lower for petrol and 14 per cent lower for diesel than 2014 prices.
- In November 2015, the UK retail price for petrol was ranked second highest in the EU. The UK diesel price was ranked highest in the EU.
- The price difference between diesel and petrol in December 2014 is 4.1 pence per litre.

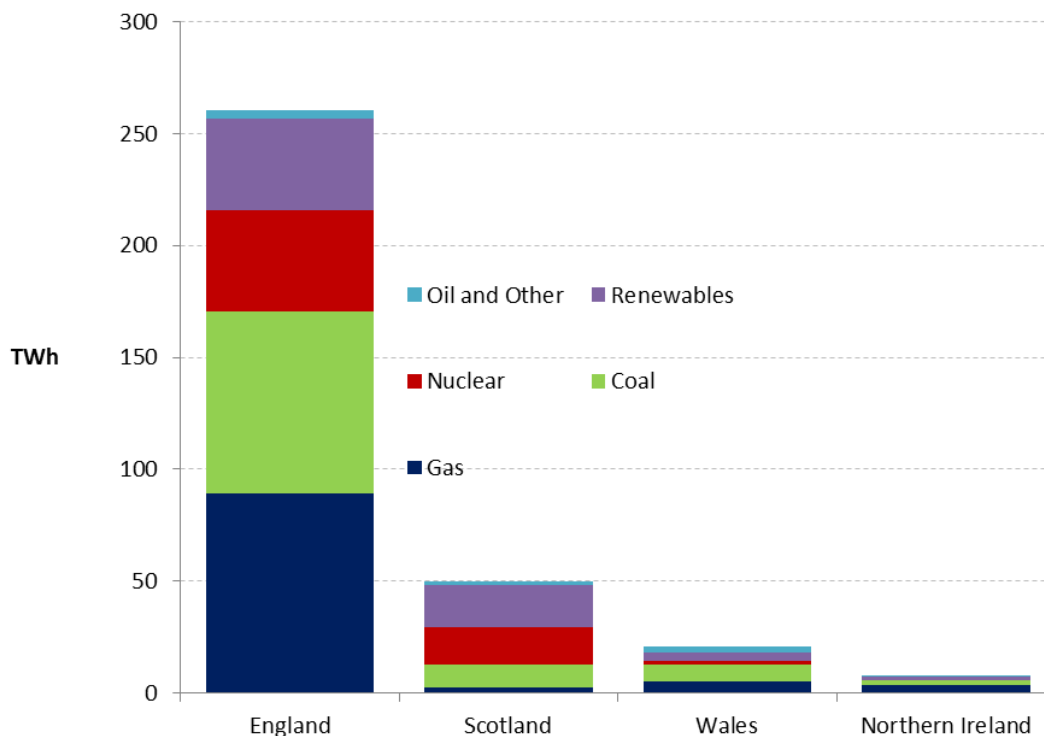
Road transport fuel prices tables are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-fuel-and-other-petroleum-product-prices



ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND SUPPLY

This article updates the detailed electricity figures for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England that were provided in December 2014's Energy Trends. The data are for 2011 to 2014 and cover generation, supply, internal and external trade and consumption. The role of renewables in each area is also shown.

Generation by country and fuel type in 2014



- Coal's share of generation fell in 2014 in all four countries due to reductions in capacity.
- Nuclear's share of generation in 2014 remained generally unchanged in England and Scotland but fell in Wales due to outages in the latter part of the year. Outages also led to a fall in the share of generation from gas in Scotland.
- The share of renewables increased to a record high in all four countries in 2014, as a result of increased capacity.
- Scotland's renewable electricity interim target (renewable electricity generation to reach 100 per cent of gross consumption by 2020, within an interim target of 31 per cent) was passed in 2011, with 36.0 per cent of gross electricity consumption from renewable electricity generation in 2011, continuing to rise to 44.4 per cent in 2013 and 49.7 per cent in 2014. The next interim target is to reach 50 per cent by 2015.



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Notes to editors

1. More detailed figures of United Kingdom energy production and consumption and of energy prices, for the third quarter of 2015 are given in the December 2015 editions of ENERGY TRENDS and ENERGY PRICES respectively, the Department's statistical bulletins on energy, released on 22 December 2015.
2. Energy Trends and the Energy Prices bulletins, published quarterly, are available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends and www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-energy-prices
3. Articles featured in Energy Trends are also available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends-articles
4. More detailed annual data on energy production and consumption for the years 2010 to 2014 are available in the DIGEST OF UNITED KINGDOM ENERGY STATISTICS 2015, published by the Stationery Office on 30 July 2015, priced £75. All information contained in the Digest is available on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes

