



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Quarterly Energy Prices

UK January to March 2021

About this release

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

In this release

Introduction	2
Domestic Market	3
Non-Domestic Market	8
Oil and Petroleum Products	13
International Comparisons	16
Timetable and data tables	22
Technical information	24
Related publications	25
Further information	27

Data tables

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

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

This publication is based on data from several survey from energy suppliers. New data are incorporated in line with the [revisions policy](#)

The consumer price index for all domestic fuels decreased by 12 per cent (in real terms, accounting for inflation) in the first Quarter (January to March) of 2021 compared with Quarter 1 2020.

Customers transferring between energy suppliers in Quarter 1 2021 are lower than the same period in 2020; there were an estimated 1,375,000 electricity transfers and 959,000 gas transfers in Quarter 1 2021. Compared with Quarter 1 2020, electricity transfers are down by 5.4 per cent and gas transfers are down 16 per cent.

Average non-domestic sector electricity prices (*in cash terms excluding CCL*) **continued to increase**; comparing the first three months of 2021 with 2020, the price increased by **2.5 per cent to 14.0 pence per kWh**.

Road fuels have increased in price compared to last year; the mid-month average retail price of petrol for June 2021 was **129 pence per litre, 22 per cent higher** than June 2020 and average retail diesel price was **133 pence per litre**, which is **19 per cent higher** than June 2020.

The price of crude oil purchased by UK refineries, in pound sterling (£) terms, in May 2021 was 117 per cent higher than a year ago, continuing a general trend of a price recovery back close to pre-pandemic levels, from a historic low in April 2020.

Introduction

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

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

Domestic Market Prices



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

Non-Domestic Sector Prices



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

Oil and Petroleum Prices



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

International Comparisons



This issue of the Quarterly Energy Prices release provides UK energy data for the first quarter of the 2021 calendar year and in some series, an update for the 2020 calendar year overall.

Please note: When a '**quarter**' is referred to in this release it is a quarter (3 months) in the context of a **calendar year**, so 'Quarter 1' refers to 1 January to 31 March unless otherwise stated.

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

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

In addition to the quarterly updates with this publication, there are monthly updates to the **domestic energy price indices** and the **prices of petroleum products**. Additionally weekly petroleum prices are published as part of the [Weekly Fuel Prices](#) series.

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

Domestic Market Prices

Households in the UK predominantly use **Electricity** from the national grid as their main source of energy. Most households (approximately 23.7 million in Great Britain) use **Gas** in their homes. Some households also use other fuels, such as heating oil and gas oil, for fuel-based generators and for heating as alternatives to on-grid options.

The domestic market prices section in this issue covers **consumer price index data** from ONS (the Office of National Statistics) and **market competition** data from Ofgem (the energy market regulator). **Customer proportions** are presented to illustrate which methods households use to pay for their energy.

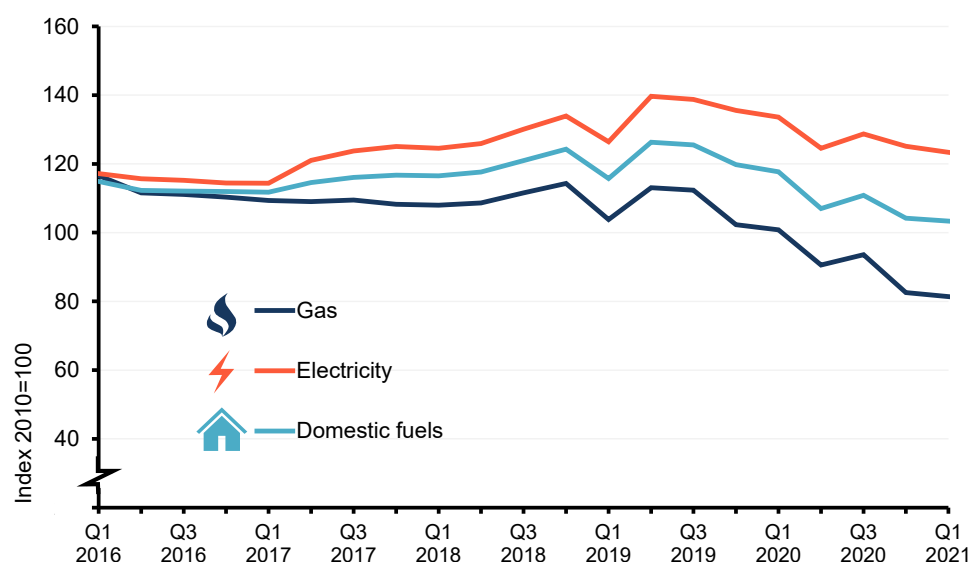
Domestic Bills are provisionally published every year in the December QEP for the calendar year. Finalised estimates are then published in the following March QEP; the most recent year covers the 2020 calendar year and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-march-2021>

Key headlines

The price paid for all domestic fuels (in **real terms** and **including VAT**) **decreased by 12 per cent** when comparing the average for Quarter 1 2021 compared with the same quarter in 2020. Electricity prices have **decreased by 7.7 per cent** and Gas prices **decreased by 19 per cent**. (Tables 2.1.1 - 2.1.2)

Chart 2.1: Real terms energy price indices in the domestic sector, quarterly, UK

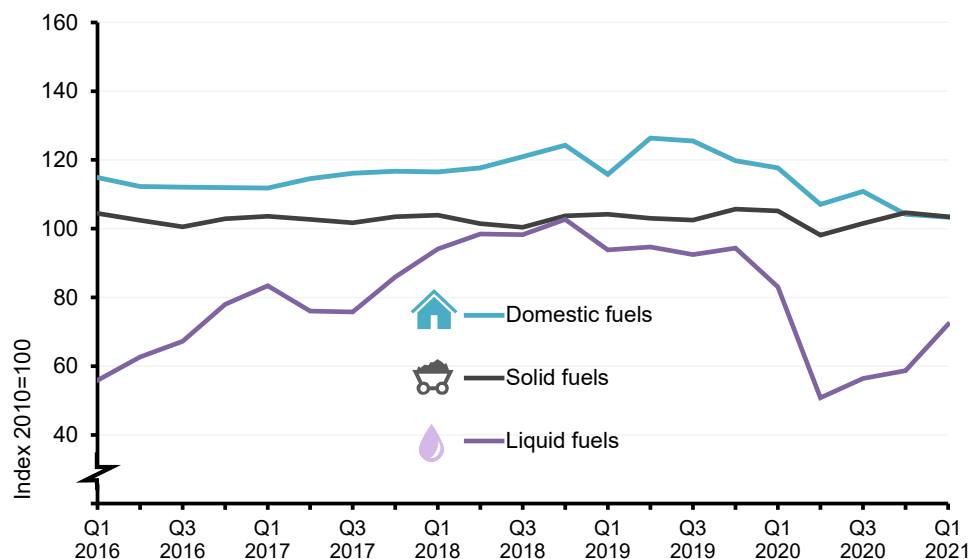


Source: Office of National Statistics, Consumer Prices Index
Data in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the GDP (market prices) deflator

Retail Price of Fuels for the Domestic Sector

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

Chart 2.2: Real terms fuel price indices in the domestic sector⁽¹⁾, quarterly, UK



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

Reference and links to tables:

[Table 2.1.1: 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](#)

Chart 2.2 shows quarterly changes in the domestic sector price indices (in real terms) over the past 5 years focusing on the trends in solid and liquid fuels.

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

Liquid fuels in this release comprises of domestic kerosene and similar heating oils.

Prices for electricity and gas closely follow similar trends (see **Chart 2.1**) and as they make up the majority of the weighting for domestic fuels, they steer the trend in overall domestic fuels. However prices for other domestic fuels follow different and, in the case of liquid fuels, more erratic trends than other fuels.

When comparing domestic fuel prices in quarter 1 2021, with the previous quarter (quarter 4 2020), in real terms, domestic electricity and gas prices have both **decreased by 1.4 per cent** whereas prices for liquid fuels have **increased by 23 per cent**.

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

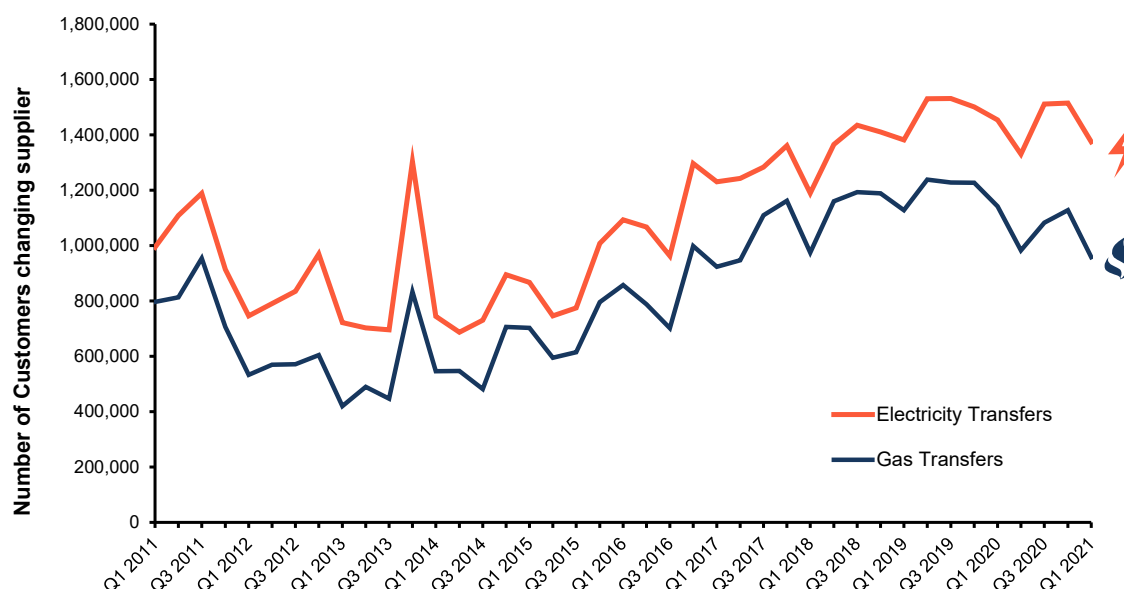
Details of long-term annual trends can be found in the [March QEP publication](#).

Transfer Statistics

The Office for Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) provides BEIS with the number of domestic customers in Great Britain that have switched supplier for both electricity and gas. More can be found on [Ofgem's Data Portal page on switching energy suppliers](#).

In order to strengthen competition in the energy market [Ofgem encourages consumers](#) to switch energy suppliers to get the best deal.

Chart 2.3 Domestic Gas and Electricity transfers¹



Source: Ofgem

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

Reference and link to tables:

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

There were an estimated 1,375,000 electricity transfers and 959,000 gas transfers in Quarter 1 2021. Compared with Quarter 1 2020, electricity transfers are down by **5.4 per cent** from 1,454,000 and gas transfers are down **16 per cent** from 1,142,000. These quarterly transfers represent around **4.8 per cent** for Electricity customers and **4.0 per cent** for Gas customers in the domestic market.

Following a series of larger energy companies merging over the past year, these switching numbers no longer include movements between several large suppliers that have merged.

¹ Since April 2016 data supplied to BEIS has included additional filtering to remove non-domestic customers. This data is sourced from network operators and filtered by the active suppliers in the market, who to the best of Ofgem's knowledge are operating in the domestic and non-domestic segments of the energy market. For this reason, the data supplied from April 2016 onwards may be more accurate but lower than levels before this time.

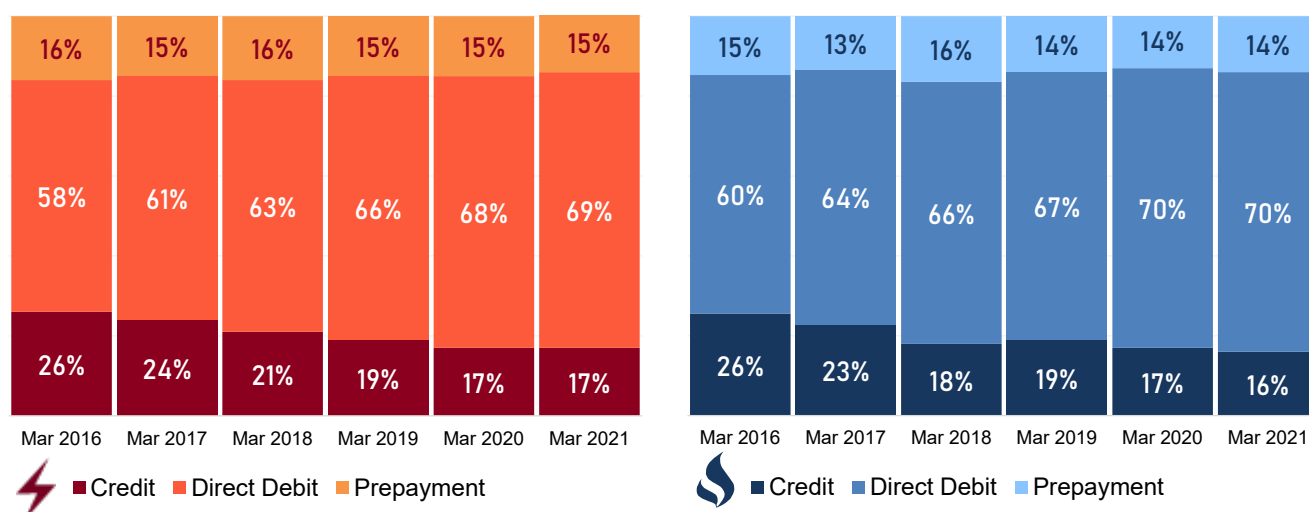
Customer Statistics

The Department collates information from energy suppliers to calculate the proportions of customers in the domestic energy market by different payment types, if they are with the region's former home supplier and whether the tariff is variable or fixed.

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

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

Chart 2.4: Proportion of households by payment type, between March 2016 and March 2021



Reference and links to tables:

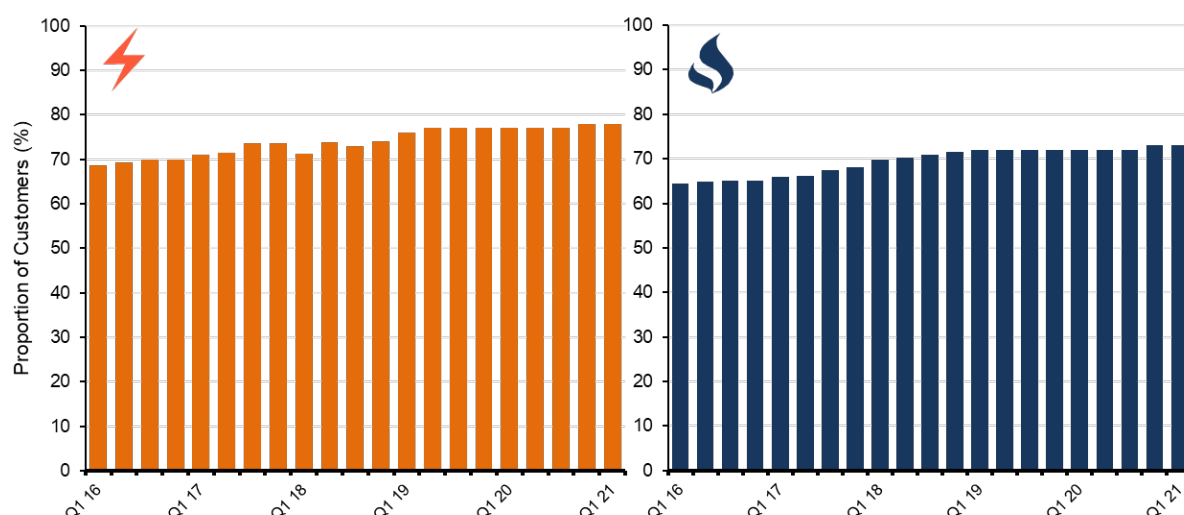
[Table 2.4.2: Regional variation of payment method for standard electricity](#)

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

At the end of March 2021, most Standard Electricity customers in the United Kingdom (UK) and Gas customers in Great Britain (GB²) were paying their bills via by **Direct Debit**. Comparing proportions over the last five years (**Chart 2.4**), the number of customers on prepayment remains relatively unchanged where there has been a shift of around 10% of all households to Direct Debit away from Standard Credit for both Gas and Electricity.

² Gas is not as widely adopted in Northern Ireland so this collection does not included Northern Ireland gas data.

Chart 2.5 Proportion of customers with 'Non-Home' suppliers, for Electricity and Gas since Quarter 1 2016



Reference and links to tables:

[Tables 2.4.1 and 2.5.1](#)

'Home' suppliers as referred to in this release, are those energy companies that are the regional suppliers of Gas and electricity to households prior to privatisation. **'Non-home' suppliers** are those energy companies that were not the regional suppliers of Gas and electricity to households prior to privatisation.

The proportion of Gas customers at the end of March 2021 with non-home suppliers was the **same** as the last quarter and **up 8 percentage points** since the end of June 2016³. The trend is similar for Electricity - the proportion of customers with a non-home supplier was also the **same** from the previous quarter and up **9 percentage points** since June 2016.

³ Before 2016, home and non-home customers numbers proportions were not adjusted as figures were primarily based on data from large suppliers. Since 2016, this has now been adjusted to be representative of Great Britain. This change means that figures before 2016 are not directly comparable with future years.

Non-Domestic Market Prices

Electricity and gas prices for the non-domestic sector in the UK

Between quarter 1 2020 and quarter 1 2021, the average **electricity** price in cash terms **excluding CCL** in the non-domestic sector **rose by 2.5 per cent to 14.0 pence per kWh**. Price rises were seen in all sizes of consumer apart from the large and very large bands.

Between quarter 1 2020 and quarter 1 2021, the average **gas** price in cash terms **excluding CCL** in the non-domestic sector **fell by 5.5 per cent to 2.3 pence per kWh**. Price falls were seen in all sizes of consumer apart from the very large band.

Electricity and gas prices for the non-domestic sector

This section presents electricity and gas prices data in the non-domestic sector, which **excludes** prices paid by households and generally **comprises** the industry sector (manufacturing, energy for example) and the commercial sector (services, retails for example) ([Tables 3.4.1 and 3.4.2](#)).

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

Consumer Band	Consumption Band (in MWh)	Prices excluding CCL pence per kWh	% change on previous year (excluding CCL)	% CCL
Average		14.00	2.5%	5.1%
Very Small	0 - 20	16.80	0.3%	3.7%
Small	20 - 499	15.10	1.4%	4.8%
Small/Medium	500 - 1,999	14.16	2.7%	5.1%
Medium	2,000 - 19,999	13.10	0.0%	5.5%
Large	20,000 - 69,999	13.08	-1.3%	5.5%
Very Large	70,000 - 150,000	12.24	-3.0%	5.7%
Extra Large	> 150,000	13.43	6.1%	5.4%

Reference and link to tables:

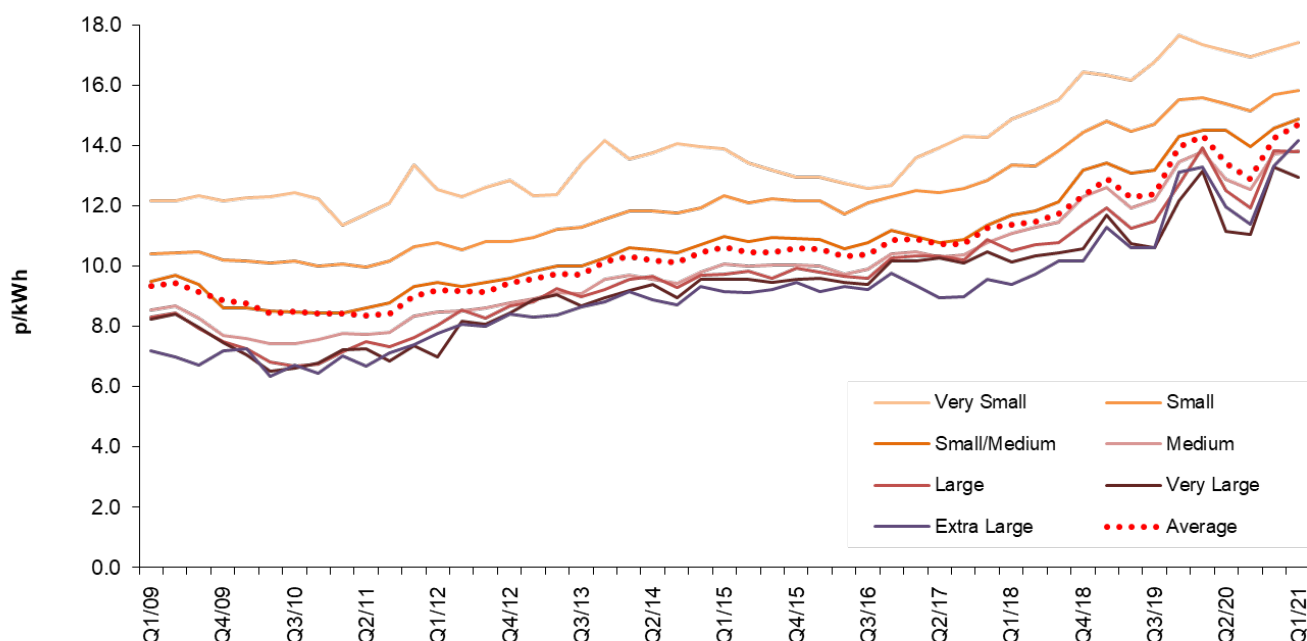
[Table 3.4.1 and 3.4.2: Price of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers in the UK excluding and including CCL](#)

In Quarter 1 2021, the inclusion of CCL increased the average price of electricity in the non-domestic sector by **5.1 per cent** and by between 3.7 per cent to 5.7 per cent for the various consumer bands.

Between Quarter 1 2020 and Quarter 1 2021, the average electricity price in cash terms **excluding CCL** in the non-domestic sector **rose by 2.5 per cent to 14.0 pence per kWh**. Price rises were seen in all sizes of consumer apart from the large and very large bands. Note that the very large and extra large bands are subject to greater change over time as they are based on fewer consumers.



Chart 3.1 Average Non-Domestic Electricity Prices Including CCL



Reference and link to tables:

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

Since the second quarter of 2011 and despite the recent falls, average electricity prices in the non-domestic sector, including CCL, have been on a general upward trend.

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

Consumer Band	Consumption Band (in MWh)	Prices excluding CCL pence per kWh	% change on previous year (excluding CCL)	% CCL
Average		2.28	-5.5%	8.7%
Very Small	<278	3.82	-3.0%	6.9%
Small	278 - 2,777	2.19	-6.7%	12.8%
Medium	2,778 - 27,777	2.11	-8.3%	10.0%
Large	27,778 - 277,777	1.81	-9.7%	7.6%
Very Large	277,778 - 1,111,112	1.63	8.0%	6.6%

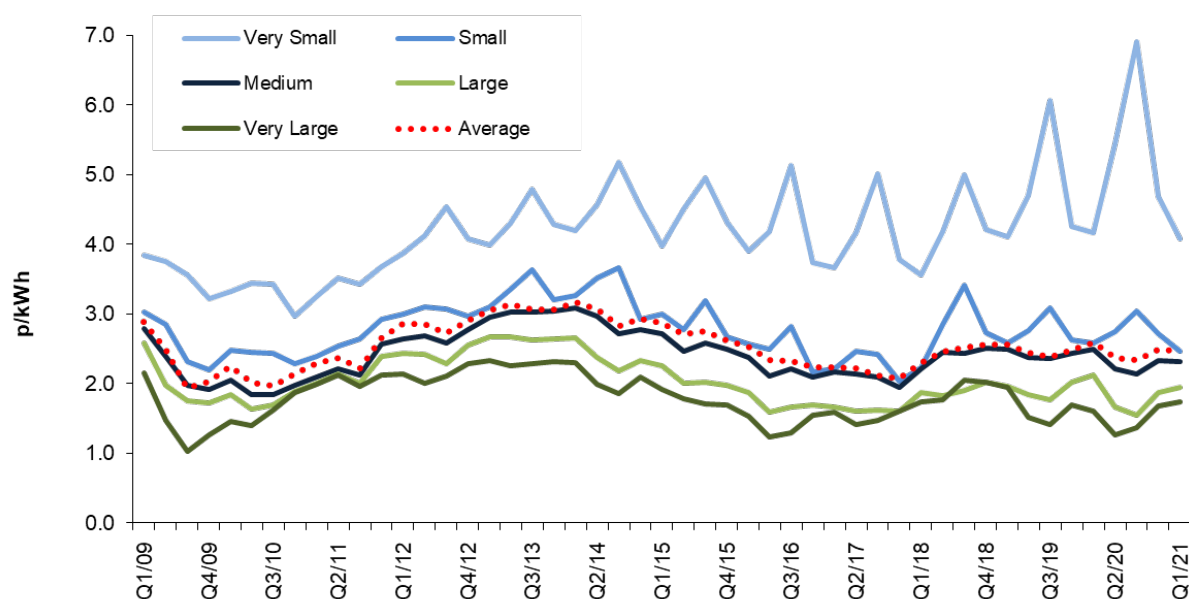
Reference and links to tables:

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

In Quarter 1 2021, the inclusion of CCL increases the average price of gas in the non-domestic sector by 8.7 per cent and by between 6.6 to 12.8 per cent for the various consumer bands.

Between Quarter 1 2020 and Quarter 1 2021, the average **gas** price in cash terms **excluding CCL** in the non-domestic sector **fell by 5.5 per cent to 2.3 pence per kWh**. Price falls were seen in all sizes of consumer apart from the very large band.

Chart 3.2 Average Non-Domestic Gas Prices Including CCL



Reference and links to tables:

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

Average gas prices, **including CCL**, fell at a steady pace from the high reached in Quarter 1 2014 to a low of 2.07 pence per kWh in Quarter 4 2017. Prices then increased in 2018 but remained lower than the highs in 2014. Since then, there has been a slow general trend for prices to fall when factoring in seasonal variation. In Quarter 1 2021 the average gas price including CCL in the non-domestic sector stood at just under 2.5 pence per kWh.

Energy prices in the manufacturing sector

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

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

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

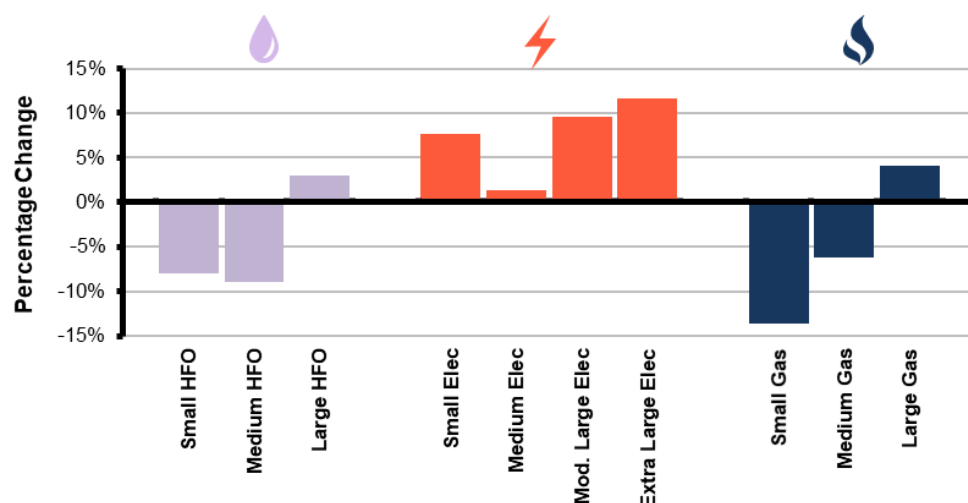
Gas Oil (sometimes referred to as Red Diesel for agricultural uses) is a more refined product than Heavy Fuel Oil and is also used as a fuel for heating and in off-road vehicles like tractors and machinery in the construction and agricultural sectors.

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

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

1. Large is 'Moderately Large' for Electricity

Chart 3.4 Manufacturing industry price change between Q1 2020 and Q1 2021 by size of consumer ⁽¹⁾



(1) Percentage price movement between Q1 2020 and Q1 2021 for heavy fuel oil (HFO), electricity and gas, in cash terms excluding Climate Change Levy (CCL)

References and link to tables:

[Table 3.1.1: Quarterly prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(original units\)](#)

[Table 3.1.2: Quarterly prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(p/kWh\)](#)

[Table 3.1.3: Annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(original units\)](#)

[Table 3.1.4: Annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry \(p/kWh\)](#)

Compared to the previous year, **heavy fuel oil** consumers in the manufacturing industry in Q1 2021 have seen an average price **fall of 3.6 per cent** in cash terms.

Over the same period, the average price paid by **electricity** consumers in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, **increased by 7.3 per cent**. There has been an increase across all consumer bands.

Compared to the previous year, in Q1 2021, the average price for **gas** consumers in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, **increased by 1.3 per cent**. Over the same period prices for Small and Medium bands have decreased whilst Large consumer bands have seen an increase.

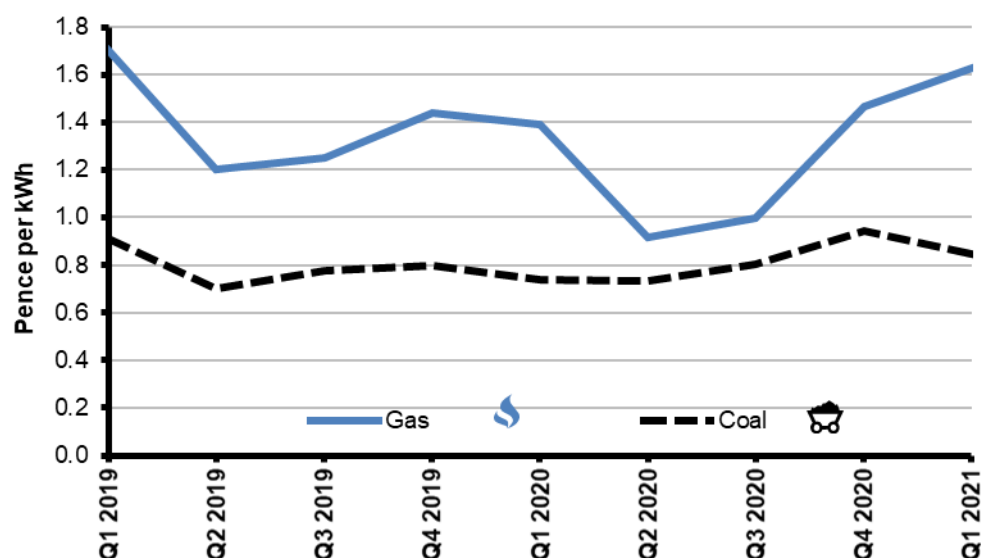
Average prices of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers

Major Power Producers are another distinct entity within 'Non-Domestic', it covers companies that use fuels such as natural gas and coal to produce electricity.

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

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

Chart 3.3 Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas - quarterly



Reference and link to tables:

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

Between Q1 2020 and Q1 2021 the price of **coal** in cash terms for power stations **rose by 15 per cent**. However, is **down by 10 per cent on the previous quarter** to under 0.9 pence per kWh.

The **gas** price between Q1 2020 and Q1 2021 **increased by 17 per cent** to just over 1.6 pence per kWh.

As shown in Chart 3.3, in Q1 2021 the price of coal, in pence per kWh, was just over half that of gas leading to a price gap in cash terms of 0.8 pence per kWh.

Oil and Petroleum Product Prices

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

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

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

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

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

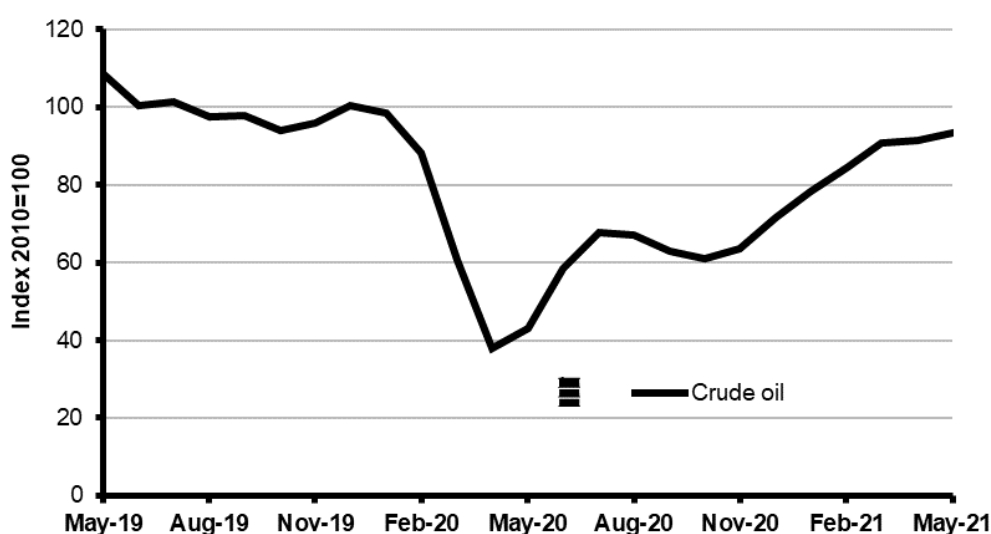
Crude oil prices

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

Over the years, several factors have affected the prices of crude oil, for example: oil shortages (1973), over-supply and weak demand (1998), hurricanes (2005), the global recession (2008-9), geopolitical tensions (2008 onwards) and more recently the Coronavirus pandemic effects on global demands.

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

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



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

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

Chart 4.1 shows the price indices of crude oil acquired by UK refineries over the past two years. Since March 2020 demand has been largely affected by the Coronavirus pandemic which has also driven prices down, reaching a low in April 2020 before rising again in recent months. The latest available crude oil price index is for May 2021, the price index was **117 per cent higher** than that of a year ago when prices were near their lowest point. When compared with May 2019, the year before the pandemic, prices are **14 per cent down**. Prices are **40 per cent below** that in March 2012, which was the highest level since our record began in 1991.

Retail prices of petroleum products

Prices of **unleaded petrol (ULSP)** and **diesel (ULSD)** peaked in April 2012, mainly due to the cost of crude oil. Relative to those peaks, the petrol price in June 2021 was **12 pence lower** and the diesel price was **15 pence lower**.

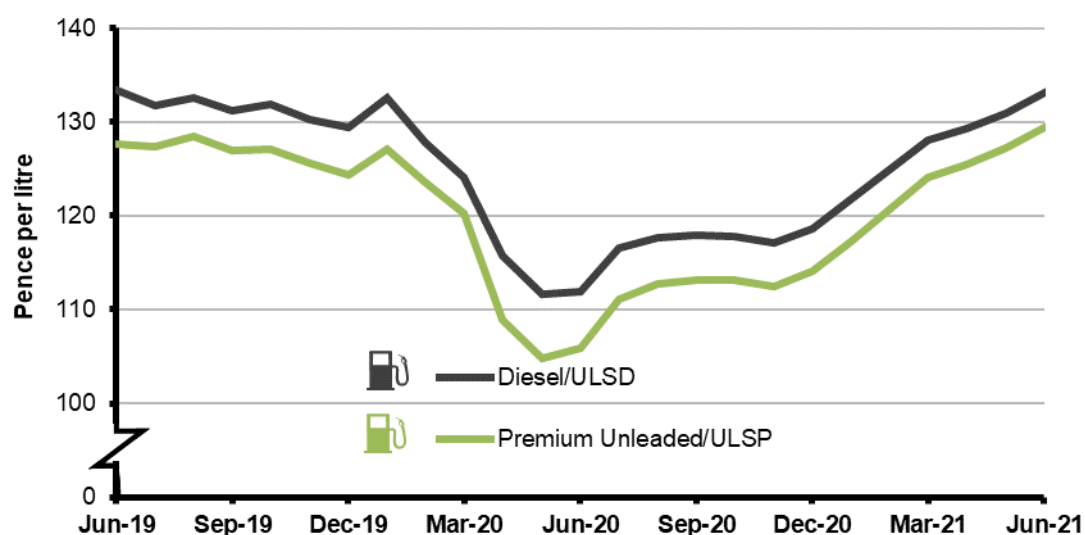
ULSP Ultra-Low-Sulphur Petrol. This is the specific grade of petrol that is commonly used on forecourts across the UK. It is the standard for petrol used when referring to 'unleaded petrol' in this release.

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

Coinciding with an increase in the supply of oil to the market in March and the Covid pandemic resulting in lockdown measures affecting movements on the roads, both unleaded petrol and diesel prices fell in the first half of 2020 with **unleaded petrol reaching a low of 105 pence per litre** in May 2020 (**down 18 per cent** from May 2019) and **diesel a low of 112 pence per litre** in the same month (**down 18 per cent** from May 2019). Prices have since increased in recent months and from the first half of June 2021 **unleaded petrol** was **22 per cent higher** and diesel was **19 per cent higher** compared to June 2020.

Not factoring in inflation, prices are now back to pre-pandemic levels. Prices of petroleum products are also affected by duty rate changes and by changes in the general rate of VAT.

Chart 4.2 Average retail prices of road fuels, monthly



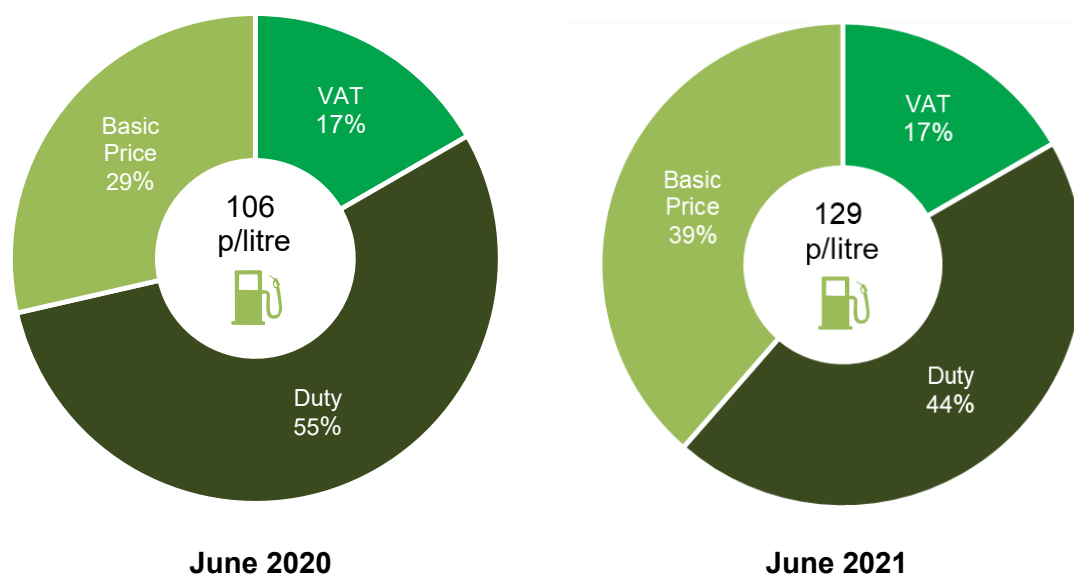
Reference and link to tables:

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

Prices of petroleum products, including road fuels, are presented in [Tables 4.1.1 to 4.1.3](#).

Chart 4.2 shows that, in mid-June 2021, a litre of **ULSP** was on average **129 pence per litre**. This was 2 pence per litre higher than the previous month and 24 pence per litre (22 per cent) higher than a year ago. The **ULSD** price was **133 pence per litre** which was 2 pence per litre higher than the previous month and 21 pence per litre (19 per cent) higher than a year ago. In June 2021 ULSD was **4 pence per litre** higher than ULSP.

Chart 4.3 Component price of unleaded petrol, June 2020 and June 2021



Basic price is the price excluding VAT and duty
Reference and link to tables:

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

Chart 4.3 shows the components of the retail price of petrol in June 2021 when the basic price was **50 pence per litre**, duty at **58 pence per litre**, and VAT at 20 per cent of basic price plus duty (**22 pence per litre**). Relative to the peak in April 2012, the price of unleaded petrol, excluding tax and duty, in the first half of June 2021 was **17 per cent lower** and the price of diesel, excluding tax and duty, was **19 per cent lower**.

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

International Price Comparisons

This section compares prices data for the United Kingdom with the European Union and the International Energy Association (IEA).

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

Road fuel prices

In **May 2021** the **average UK unleaded petrol price**, including tax and duty, was the **fifth lowest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **127.3 pence per litre**.

In **May 2021** the **average UK diesel price**, including tax and duty was the **second highest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **130.9 pence per litre**.

Electricity and gas prices

The average industrial electricity prices **including taxes** in the UK for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 were the **second highest** in the EU14 plus UK group.

The average industrial gas prices for the period July to December 2020, **including taxes**, in the UK for medium consumers were the **fifth lowest** in the EU14 plus UK group.

The average domestic electricity price **including taxes** in the UK for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 was **seventh highest** in the EU14 plus UK group.

The average domestic gas prices, **including taxes**, in the UK for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 were the **second lowest** in the EU14 plus UK group.

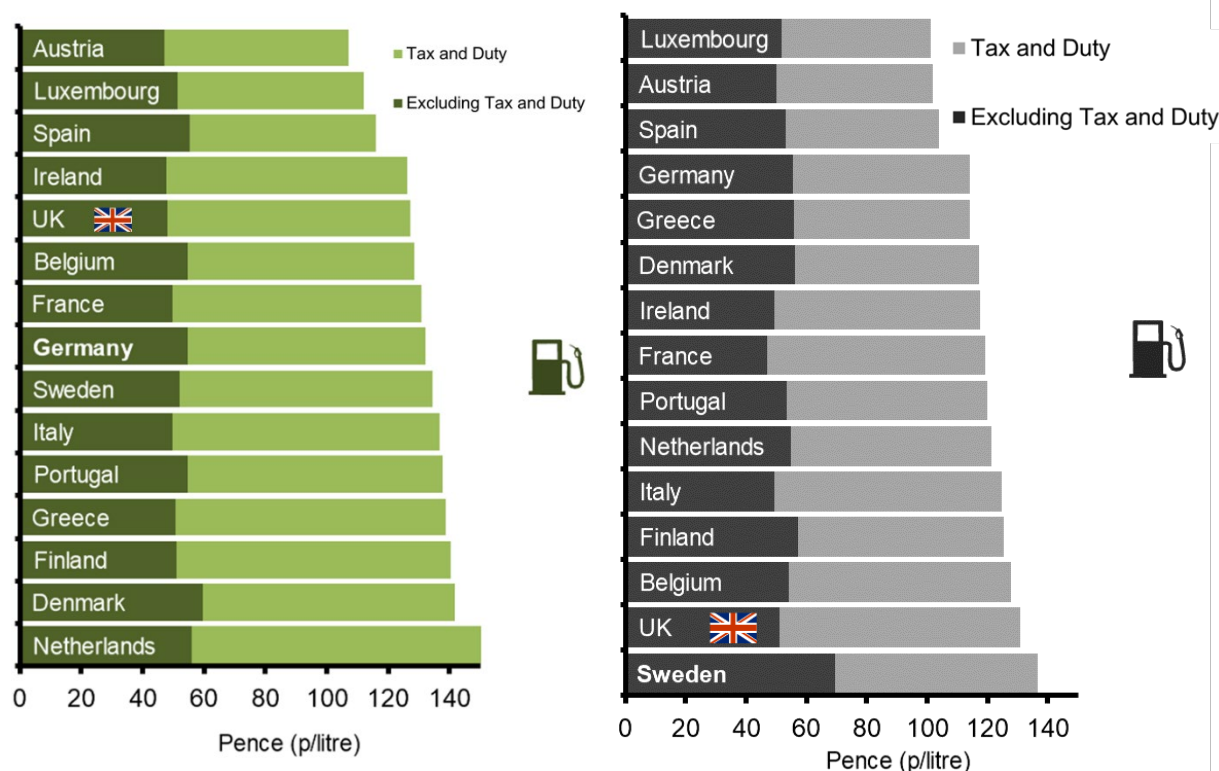
International Data all the underlying international comparisons data and related publications can be found on GOV.UK here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/international-energy-price-comparisons

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

Unleaded petrol and diesel prices

Chart 5.1 shows that in **May 2021** the **average UK unleaded petrol price**, including tax and duty, was **fifth lowest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **127.3 pence per litre**. In **May 2021** the **average UK diesel price**, including tax and duty was the **second highest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **130.9 pence per litre**.

Charts 5.1 & 5.2 Premium unleaded petrol prices and diesel prices, May 2021



Source: European Commission Oil Bulletin

Reference and link to tables:

[Table 5.1.1 and 5.2.1: Premium unleaded petrol prices in the EU](#)

When presented in a common currency basis, the lowest price for unleaded was in Austria at **107.1 pence per litre** while the highest price was in the Netherlands at **153.0 pence per litre**.

Excluding tax and duty, the average UK unleaded price was the **third lowest** in the former EU14 plus UK group at **48.1 pence per litre**. The highest price was in Denmark at **67.2 pence per litre** and the lowest was Austria at **47.2 pence per litre**.

The lowest price for diesel was in Luxembourg at **101.1 pence per litre** while the highest was in Sweden at **136.7 pence per litre**.

The high UK diesel prices are partly due to the taxes levied, which accounted for 61 per cent of the total price in May 2021. Luxembourg had the lowest proportion of total price as tax and duty at 49 per cent.

Excluding tax and duty, the average UK diesel price was the **fifth lowest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **51.2 pence per litre**. The lowest was in Italy at **49.3 pence per litre** while the highest price was in Sweden at **69.6 pence per litre**.

Industrial electricity and gas prices

Prices for electricity and gas in this section and the related tables vary depending on the period covered (Eurostat generally provides data based on a 6-monthly basis but tables also provide annual estimates) and on the consumption level (by band size or an overall average).

Eurostat EU27 tables have more timely data on 6-monthly ('semester') basis and reflect changes on a shorter timescale. This data can be found on the Eurostat website, published under the Energy section of the [Eurostat's Energy & Environment theme within the Europa database](#).

The annual IEA tables allow comparisons on a broader level including with non-EU countries.

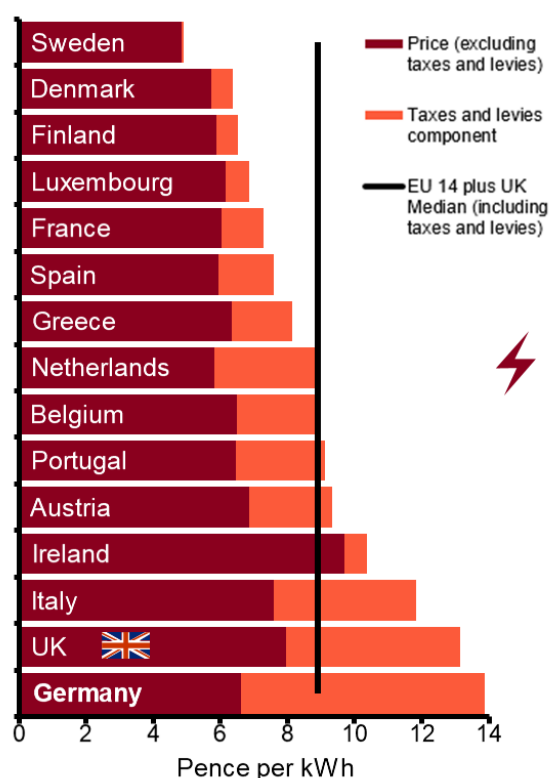
The data in this release always refers to a 'Medium' consumer (see the Annex for definitions) of each fuel type. Rankings will differ between the IEA and Eurostat tables as the charts only include actual data available at the time of publication. A line on the charts is included to represent the median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

Electricity price comparisons with EU Countries

Chart 5.3 shows the industrial electricity prices for the EU14 plus UK nations for the period July to December 2020. Average industrial electricity prices **including taxes** in the UK for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 were the second highest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were **54 per cent above** the EU14 median.

The average industrial electricity prices **including taxes** rose in the UK and in most of the EU14 countries on the same period in 2019 for the medium consumers. The UK price rose by **2.3 per cent**, while the average price increase in the EU14 was **4.8 per cent**. The largest increase was in the Netherlands by **18 per cent** and the largest fall was in Spain by just over **7 per cent**. The UK prices for medium consumers, **excluding taxes** and levies, were the second highest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were **27 per cent** above the estimated EU14 median price.

Chart 5.3 Industrial electricity prices



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU14 plus UK for July – December 2020.

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 at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Reference and link to tables:

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

Electricity price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Comparisons with other IEA Countries are updated every September. The most recent details can be found in the September 2020 QEP publication found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-september-2020>.

Reference and link to table:

Table 5.3.1: Industrial electricity prices in the IEA including and excluding taxes

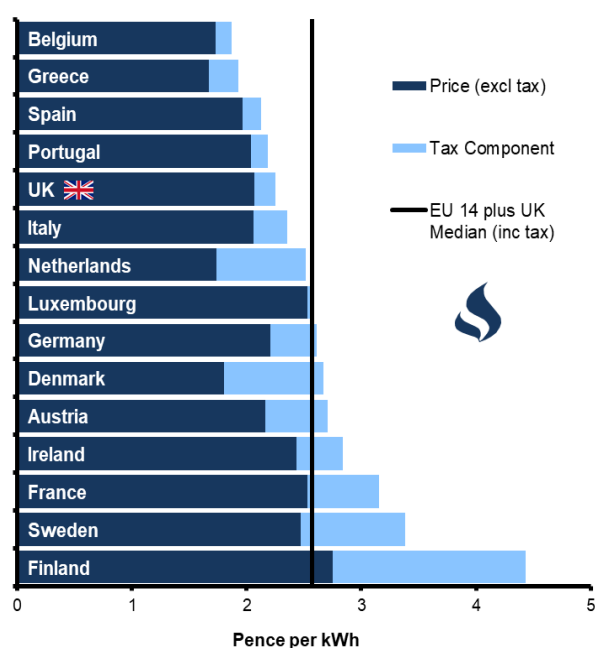
Gas price comparisons with EU Countries

Chart 5.4 shows the average industrial gas prices for the EU14 plus UK nations for the period July to December 2020. Average industrial gas prices for the period July to December 2020, **including taxes**, in the UK for medium consumers were the fifth lowest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were **13 per cent** below the EU14 median price.

The average industrial gas price **including taxes** in the UK for medium consumers fell by **6.6 per cent** on the same period in 2019. Across the EU14, the average price fall was **7.1 per cent**. Industrial gas prices fell in most of the EU14 with price changes ranging from **-35 per cent** in Greece to **+7.5 per cent** in Sweden.

Prices **excluding taxes** for medium consumers in the UK were the eighth lowest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were 2.1 per cent below the EU14 median prices.

Chart 5.4 Industrial gas prices



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU14 plus UK for July – December 2020.

Medium consumers are defined as having an annual consumption of 2,778 – 27,777 MWh.

Source: Eurostat Statistics in Focus gas prices for EU Industry at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Reference and link to table:

Table 5.8.1: Average industrial gas prices in the EU

Gas price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Comparisons with other IEA Countries are updated every September. The most recent details can be found in the September 2020 QEP publication found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-september-2020>.

Reference and link to table:

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

Domestic electricity and gas prices

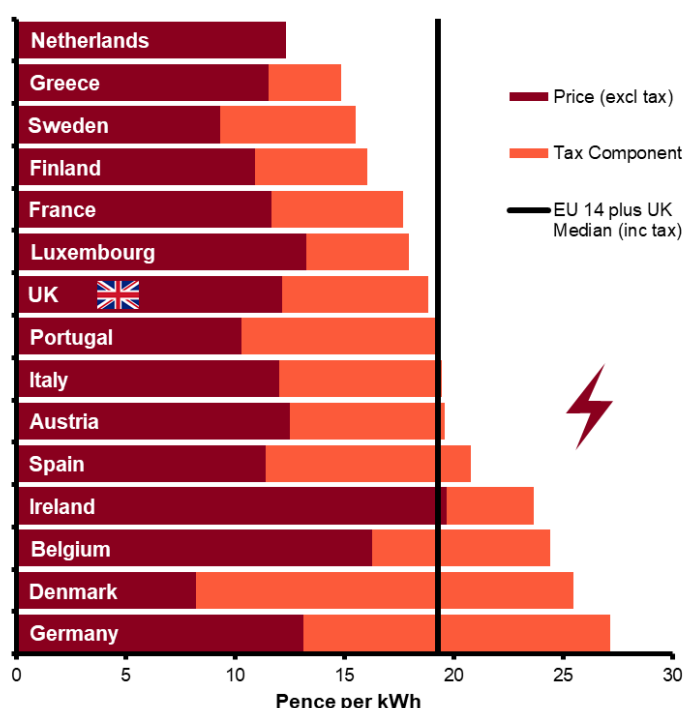
Electricity price comparisons with EU Countries

Chart 5.5 shows the domestic electricity prices for the EU14 plus UK nations for the period July to December 2020. The average domestic electricity price **including taxes** in the UK for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 was seventh highest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were **2.7 per cent** below the EU14 median price.

The average domestic electricity prices **including taxes** for medium consumers rose in more than half of the EU14 plus UK countries on the same period in 2019 with the largest increase in Luxembourg by **13.2 per cent** and the largest fall in the Netherlands by **32 per cent**. The **UK** price fell by **3.2 per cent**.

The average UK price **excluding taxes** for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 was the ninth lowest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were 2.4 per cent above the EU14 median price.

Chart 5.5 Domestic electricity prices



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU14 plus UK for July to December 2020.

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 at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Reference and link to table:

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

Electricity price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Comparisons with other IEA Countries are updated every September. The most recent details can be found in the September 2020 QEP publication found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-september-2020>.

Reference and link to table:

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

Gas price comparisons with EU Countries

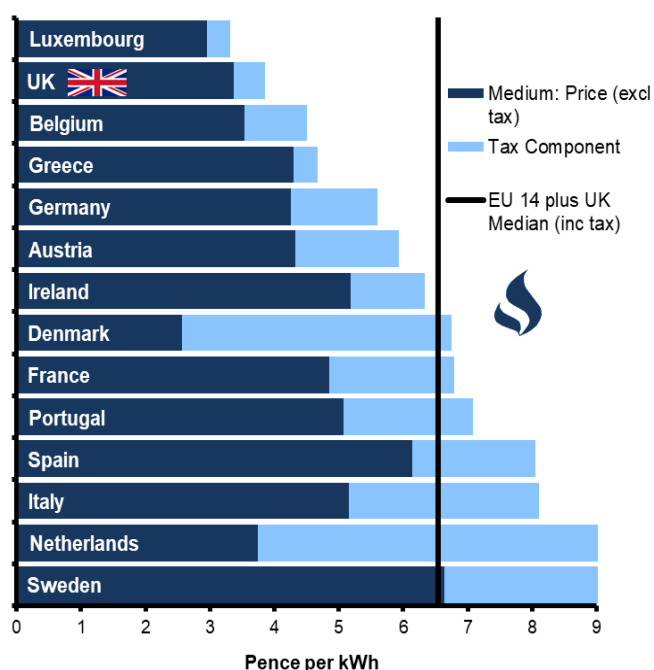
Chart 5.6 shows the domestic gas prices for the EU14 plus UK nations (with the exception of Finland where data are not available) for the period July to December 2020.

Average domestic gas prices, **including taxes**, in the UK for medium consumers for the period July to December 2020 were the second lowest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were 43 per cent lower than the EU 14 median price.

The average domestic gas price **including taxes** in the UK for medium consumers fell by **13 per cent** on the same period in 2019 and for the EU14 countries prices fell by an average of **3.2 per cent**. Prices fell in most of the EU14 countries except for Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal.

The UK price **excluding taxes** was the third lowest in the EU14 plus UK group. UK prices were 22 per cent lower than the EU 14 median price.

Chart 5.6 Domestic gas prices



Prices are for medium consumers in the EU14 plus UK for July to December 2020.

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 gas prices for EU households at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Reference and link to table:

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

Gas price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Comparisons with other IEA Countries are updated every September. The most recent details can be found in the September 2020 QEP publication found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-september-2020>

Reference and link to table:

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

Timetable and data tables

Update Timetable

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

Domestic Tables

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

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

Industrial Tables

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

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

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

International Tables

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

Key:

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

23

Technical information

Information in this publication is sourced from various surveys of the energy industry conducted by the Energy Prices Analysis team in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revisions policy

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

Related publications

Energy Trends

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

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

Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES)

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

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

UK Energy in Brief

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

Fuel Poverty Statistics

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

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

Sub-National Energy Consumption Statistics

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

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

National Energy Efficiency Data-framework (NEED)

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

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

Household Energy Efficiency

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

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

UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics

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

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

UK Energy and CO2 emissions projections

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

Policy publications

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is responsible for business, industrial strategy, science, research & innovation, energy and clean growth and climate change. The policy that the department works on and the associated documentation can be found on the GOV.UK site [here](#).

The energy statistics section is here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy/about/statistics

The Energy White Paper

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

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

Further information

Uses of these statistics

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

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

User engagement

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

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

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

National Statistics designation

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

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

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

Pre-release access to statistics

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

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

Contact

Quarterly Energy Prices is prepared by the Energy Prices analysis team in BEIS.

Responsible Statistician for this release

William Nye

Tel: 0207 215 5073

Energy Prices Team

Peter Chapman

Tel: 0300 068 6688

Annabel Wright

Tel: 0300 068 5283

Email: energyprices.stats@beis.gov.uk

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy **media enquiries desk** can be reached on 020 7215 1000

More information on BEIS energy publications is available on the BEIS website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy/about/statistics



© Crown copyright 2021

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-trends>

If you need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email energy.statistics@beis.gov.uk

Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.