Average domestic energy bills in 2023 (based on the standard energy consumption levels used in this release) are provisionally estimated to be £2,592. In current price terms, this is an increase of 13 per cent (or £298) compared to 2022.

The average standard electricity bill is estimated to be £1,264 in 2023, an increase of 9 per cent or £104 from 2022. The average estimated gas bill is £1,328, an increase of 17 per cent or £195 from 2022.

Typical consumption values in this release are 3,600 kWh a year for electricity and 13,600 kWh a year for gas. Additionally these figures incorporate the Energy Price Guarantee but do not reflect payments made through the Energy Bills Support Scheme.

Electricity prices for consumers in the manufacturing industry have seen a decrease of 4.7 per cent between quarter 3 2023 and the same period in 2022, to an average price of 18.8 pence per kWh. The average price paid for gas in the same sector across the same time period has decreased by 7.5 per cent to a 4.6 pence per kWh.

The latest available crude oil price index is for November 2023. Crude oil prices have increased compared to three months ago by 1.6 per cent and November’s price was down 31 per cent from the recent peak in June 2022. However, prices remain above pre-pandemic levels. Crude oil prices are 53 per cent higher than February 2020.

Road fuel prices the mid-month average retail price of petrol for December 2023 was 143.7 pence per litre and average retail diesel price was 151.9 pence per litre, decreases of 7.6 per cent and 15 per cent respectively compared to prices in mid-December 2022. This is 24 per cent and 23 per cent less respectively than the peak prices in July 2022.
Introduction

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

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

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.

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

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

This issue of the Quarterly Energy Prices release provides data for the third quarter of the 2023 calendar year (July to September) and, in some series, monthly data, yearly data and revisions to previous quarters’ data.

This issue also presents first estimates for annual domestic energy bills for the 2023 calendar year based on the first three quarters of 2023 and estimates for October to December 2023.

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

It contains updates on non-domestic energy prices, including prices paid by energy generators. Additionally, there are updates on the prices of petroleum products (both domestically and internationally) and comparisons between gas and electricity prices in the UK with the European Union.

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 3’ refers to 1 July to 30 September unless otherwise stated.

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

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

Weekly petroleum prices are also available, published as part of the Weekly Fuel Prices series.

More information on the frequency and specific content of these tables can be found in the timetable and data tables section.
Households in the UK predominantly use **Electricity** from the national grid as their main source of energy. Most households also use **Gas** in their homes. Some households also use other fuels, such as heating oil for fuel-based generators and for heating as alternatives to on-grid options.

The domestic market prices section in this issue covers the provisional **estimated average domestic bills for the 2023 calendar year**, quarterly **market competition** data from Ofgem (the energy market regulator) and **consumer price index data** from ONS (the Office of National Statistics). **Customer proportions** are also presented, based on the same survey data as the estimated domestic bills, to illustrate which methods households used to pay for their energy.

This publication includes data that covers from 1 October 2022 onwards; during which time domestic prices were covered by the **Energy Price Guarantee** which discounts domestics prices to a guaranteed price in instances where Ofgem’s price cap would result in domestic bills higher than this guaranteed price. Since July 2023 Ofgem’s price cap has been lower than this guaranteed price.

More information on this can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support/energy-bills-support-factsheet-8-september-2022](www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support/energy-bills-support-factsheet-8-september-2022)

### Retail Price of Fuels for the Domestic Sector

Retail market price **indices** of fuels used in the domestic sector information are sourced from the Office for National Statistics’ **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** data series, the full series available here at the [ONS Consumer Price Inflation page](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandprices/consumerpriceindex).

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

Reference and links to tables:
*Table 2.1.1 - 2.1.3: Consumer prices index: fuel components in the UK*
**Chart 2.1** shows quarterly changes in the domestic sector price indices (in real terms) over the past 5 years.

The price paid for all domestic fuels in quarter 3 2023 (in real terms and including VAT) decreased by **2.8 per cent** when compared with the same quarter in 2022. Electricity prices have decreased by **1.2 per cent** and Gas prices decreased by **5.8 per cent** over the same time period. ([Tables 2.1.1 - 2.1.2](#)). Between quarter 2 2023 and quarter 3 2023 domestic fuel prices decreased by **16 per cent** in real terms.

The trends in real terms present changes in prices accounting for overall inflation. Given levels of inflation over the past year, these trends can be different from the nominal price changes experienced. Between quarter 3 2022 and quarter 3 2023 domestic fuel prices increased by **4.9 per cent**. With electricity and gas increasing by **6.7 per cent** and **1.7 per cent** respectively over the same period in current terms.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solid fuels</th>
<th>in this release include coal and smokeless fuel. The prices presented are based on standard grade household coal and boiler grade smokeless fuel.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquid fuels</td>
<td>in this release comprises of domestic kerosene and similar heating oils. However, prices for other domestic fuels follow different and, in the case of liquid and solid fuels, more erratic trends than other fuels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The price for liquid fuels previously had been decreasing quarter on quarter since Q2 2022. However, between Q2 2023 and Q3 2023, prices increased **13 per cent**. The price of liquid fuels in Q3 2023 was still lower than the price in Q3 2022 though, by **31 per cent** in real terms.
Domestic electricity and gas bills

This section covers the provisional domestic bills estimate for 2023. Final figures will be published in March 2024.

Government Domestic Bill Support

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

More information can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support.

Bills Calculation

Household bills estimates in this release are based on quarterly snapshots of data provided by a sample of energy companies throughout the year. Bills data are presented (unless noted otherwise) with fixed annual consumption levels of:

- 3,600 kWh for Standard Electricity
- 5,100 kWh for Economy 7 and other time of use electricity tariffs
- 13,600 kWh for Gas

This is to allow comparisons of price changes over time by keeping consumption changes constant. Please note: this differs from the Typical Domestic Consumption Values Ofgem use which are updated more frequently to closer reflect consumer’s typical usage.

For information on the derivation of these figures and the process for reviewing these please see the review document on the domestic methodology page here:

Actual average domestic consumption of both gas and electricity varies from year to year due to changes such as weather, consumer behaviour and energy efficiency improvements.

Bills based on actual domestic consumption are published in tables 2.2.5 and 2.3.5 (for electricity and gas respectively) and will be updated in March 2024 using annual consumption estimates from the UK Energy Trends.

Additionally, data in tables 2.2.4 and 2.3.4 provide unit prices and fixed costs (standing charge), for electricity and gas respectively, which can be used to calculate an energy bill for any consumption level required (total cost = fixed cost + (unit price x consumption)).

The provisional average annual domestic bills for 2023 use data reported by suppliers for quarter 1 to quarter 3 with the final quarter’s tariff prices being projected from the Q3 tariff data.

Adjustments were applied to the variable tariff price components of the data based on the changes between the Q3 and Q4 2023 Ofgem price cap.

Annual bills will be updated in the March 2024 QEP, at which point, data returns will be available from sampled suppliers for all quarters of 2023.

Price Caps and Government Support

Since January 2019, the energy market regulator Ofgem has implemented a price cap to ensure gas and electricity customers pay a fairer price for their energy and are protected against being overcharged. An earlier cap was introduced in April 2017 specifically for those who pay for their energy through a prepayment meter. These were combined into the Default Tariff Cap from January 2021 onwards.

The cap is set for a specific time period and applies to tariffs for all customers on standard variable tariffs (it does not affect what can be charged on fixed term contracts) and energy suppliers can charge prices at or below the level but cannot charge more.

---

1 Provisional estimates are based on data returns for Q1-Q3 from suppliers and are updated in the next issue of this release (March 2024) to incorporate Q4 returns.
Although a cap was announced for October 2022 to March 2023, the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) was later announced as temporary additional measure to protect consumers and meant that consumers would pay less for their energy than they would have under this previously announced price cap. The EPG provides a threshold of £2,500 a year for a typical dual fuel household bill and is in place until March 2024.

Additionally, from October 2022 to March 2023, households received support through the Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS) where £400 of support was paid to households in six monthly payments of £66/67. Given this was an “income-side” support and does not affect the price paid, this isn’t reflected in our bills estimates.

In August 2022 Ofgem announced they would update the price cap on a quarterly basis. In November 2022 the first quarterly price cap for January - March 2023 was announced with an annual cap level of £4,279. However, the government’s Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) was in effect for this and the following quarter.

When the price cap for July 2023 was announced at £2,134 - below the Energy Price Guarantee threshold of £2,500 a year for a typical dual fuel household bill, using Ofgem’s consumption values and paying Direct Debit - the Ofgem Price Cap came back into effect to limit the unit costs and standing charges by region.

Table 1 Default tariff cap announcement and cap levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period Covered</th>
<th>Cap Level</th>
<th>Cap In Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2020 - Sep 2020</td>
<td>£1,162</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2020 - Mar 2021</td>
<td>£1,077</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2021 - Sep 2021</td>
<td>£1,176</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2021 - Mar 2022</td>
<td>£1,319</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2022 - Sep 2022</td>
<td>£2,027</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2023 - Mar 2023</td>
<td>£4,414</td>
<td>Energy Price Guarantee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2023 - Jun 2023</td>
<td>£3,381</td>
<td>Energy Price Guarantee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2023 - Sep 2023</td>
<td>£2,134</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2023 - Dec 2023</td>
<td>£1,978</td>
<td>Price Cap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the method we use to calculate average bills will produce average figures different to the cap. We take an average of prices provided to us from energy companies each quarter. As we request all active tariffs at that point in time, this includes fixed tariffs offered in previous years that could be charging more or less than new tariffs offered at the time of request.

Furthermore, Ofgem standard energy consumption rates used to calculate cap levels (recently changed to 11,500 kWh for gas and 2,700kWh for electricity) are lower than the standard energy consumption rates used to calculate annual bills in this release (which are fixed at 13,600kWh for gas and 3,600kWh for electricity).

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2 Based on a typical customer using typical consumptions for dual fuel and paying by Direct Debit. For further information, see https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/energy-price-caps/about-energy-price-caps

3 These are presented on Ofgem’s current Typical Domestic Consumption Values of 3,100 kWh of electricity and 12,000 kWh of gas. Under the Ofgem price cap for October to December 2023 the TDCVs were reduced, and the effective cap is publicly cited as equivalent to an annual bill of £1,834 for a typical dual fuel direct debit consumer.
UK average annual energy bill (provisional estimates)

This section presents data based on the fixed consumption levels as outlined in the previous section (3,600 kWh for electricity, 13,600 kWh for gas).

Table 2 - Average annual bills 2023 (provisional estimates) compared to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023 (estimate)</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Electricity</td>
<td>£1,160</td>
<td>£1,264</td>
<td>£104</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>£1,134</td>
<td>£1,328</td>
<td>£195</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>£2,294</td>
<td>£2,592</td>
<td>£298</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average energy bills based on our standard energy consumption in 2023 are estimated to be £2,592\(^4\). In current prices terms, this was an increase of 13\% per cent or £298 on 2022.

The average Standard Electricity bill increased by 9\% per cent or £104 to £1,264 in 2023. The average Gas bill increased by 17\% per cent or £195 to £1,328 in 2023 (differences reported in current prices terms).

Chart 2.2: Average Standard Electricity and Gas bills (current prices)

Reference and 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

\(^4\) 13,600kWh for gas and 3,600kWh for electricity. This excludes EBSS or other cost of living support payments.
Payment methods

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

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

![Chart 2.3: Proportion of households by payment type, between September 2018 and September 2023](image)

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 September 2023, most Standard Electricity customers in the United Kingdom (UK) and Gas customers in Great Britain (GB\(^5\)) were paying their bills via **Direct Debit**. Comparing proportions over the last five years, there has been a shift by households to Direct Debit of **7 percentage points** for standard electricity and **6 percentage points** for gas.

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\(^5\) Gas is not as widely adopted in Northern Ireland as it is in the rest of the UK, so this collection does not include Northern Ireland gas data.
Chart 2.4: Average annual bills on each payment type, 2023

Reference and 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 3 - Average annual bills, in current prices, by payment method, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Direct Debit</th>
<th>Prepayment</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Electric</td>
<td>£1,311</td>
<td>£1,254</td>
<td>£1,225</td>
<td>£1,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>£1,381</td>
<td>£1,308</td>
<td>£1,372</td>
<td>£1,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined</td>
<td>£2,692</td>
<td>£2,562</td>
<td>£2,627</td>
<td>£2,592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For combined bills, based on our consumption levels⁶, Credit remained the most expensive method of payment at £2,692 (an increase, in current prices terms, of 8.0 per cent or £200 since 2022).

Direct Debit was the cheapest for combined bills at £2,562 (an increase of 15 per cent or £324 since 2022). Average prices paid on Direct Debit (assuming both fuels are paid for by this method) were £131 cheaper than those on Credit in 2023.

Prepayment with a combined bill of £2,627 was more expensive than Direct Debit but cheaper than Credit and increased by 12 per cent or £288 compared with 2022.

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⁶ 13,600kWh for gas and 3,600kWh for electricity.
Fixed and Variable Tariffs

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

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

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

Chart 2.5: Proportion of customers on fixed tariffs for both Electricity and Gas since Quarter 3 2018

The proportion of customers on fixed term contracts had decreased during 2022 and 2023 as fewer fixed tariffs were offered and the remaining customers who were at the end of their fixed term moved onto standard variable tariffs.

At the end of September 2023, 10 per cent of all standard electricity and 10 per cent of all gas customers were on fixed tariffs. This compares with 16 per cent of all standard electricity and 18 per cent of all gas customers in September 2022. These are both lower than the June 2020 peak, where fixed contracts were 44 per cent of all Standard Electricity customers and 46 per cent of all Gas customers.

Reference and link to tables:
Table 2.4.2: Regional variation of payment method for standard electricity
Table 2.5.2: Regional variation of payment method for Gas

7 The method used to determine a fixed tariff is dependent on the tariff naming conventions so proportions are to be treated as best estimates.
Economy 7 and Other Time of Use Tariffs Average Annual Bills

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

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

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

Home and Non-home Suppliers

Prior to the privatisation of the GB energy market, all energy customers were supplied by their regional electricity and gas boards. Following privatisation these boards became the commercial ‘home’ suppliers for each region to which all customers in that region belonged before the market opened 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 open to competition, after being monopolistic for many years, although two suppliers still currently supply most 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.

Customers with their ‘home’ supplier as referred to in this data set are those with the energy companies that were the regional suppliers of gas and electricity to households prior to privatisation.

Therefore, customers with ‘non-home’ suppliers are those with any energy companies that were established following privatisation or a regional supplier operating outside its former region.

In the instances where home suppliers no longer exist as a distinct company or brand, the company which acquired or merged with the home supplier are classed as such in the region the former company operated.

Given overall market changes in recent years, companies no longer being distinguishable as home-suppliers due to mergers or market exits and customers being able to choose multiple suppliers unrelated to their geographical location including their own former ‘home’ supplier, this categorisation of domestic consumers is no longer deemed relevant.

**We propose to stop producing a home and non-home customer split in tables 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 for bills data in the first publication of 2024 estimated bills (the December 2024 publication) and for customer proportions tables 2.4.1 and 2.5.1 in the June 2024 release of the Quarterly Energy Prices.**

**We invite any feedback or objections you may have to:** energyprices.stats@energysecurity.gov.uk
Chart 2.6 shows the recent trend in customer proportions in this series. The underlying data for the proportion of customers with the home or non-home supplier for their region can be found in Tables 2.4.1 and 2.5.1 and data on customer bills split by home and non-home supplier can be found in Tables 2.2.1 and 2.3.1.
Transfer Statistics

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

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

Chart 2.7: Domestic Gas and Electricity transfers over the past ten years

There were an estimated 557,000 electricity transfers and 310,000 gas transfers in quarter 3 2023. These quarterly transfers represent around 1.9 per cent of the market for domestic electricity customers and 1.3 per cent of the domestic market for gas customers.

Compared with last quarter (quarter 2 2023) there has been a continued uptick in transfers; electricity transfers are up 162,000 (41 per cent) and gas transfers are up by 81,000 (35 per cent). When compared with quarter 2 last year (2022) transfers have also increased, albeit from historic lows - electricity transfers are up 128 per cent and gas transfers are up 112 per cent over this time period.

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

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

Electricity and gas prices for the non-domestic sector

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

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

Data on prices of fuels purchased by non-domestic consumers by different size bands can be found in Tables 3.4.1 and 3.4.2.

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

Energy Bill Relief Scheme and Energy Bills Discount Scheme

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

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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Small</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Large</th>
<th>Extra Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heavy Fuel Oil</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 490</td>
<td>490 - 4,900</td>
<td>&gt; 4,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(tonnes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electricity</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 880</td>
<td>880 - 8,800</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>&gt;150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MWh)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gas</strong></td>
<td>&lt; 1,500</td>
<td>1,500 - 8,800</td>
<td>&gt; 8,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MWh)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 3.1: Manufacturing industry fuel price change between quarter 3 2022 and quarter 3 2023 (provisional) by size of consumer

Percentage price movement between Quarter 3 2022 and Quarter 3 2023 for heavy fuel oil (HFO), electricity, gas and gas oil in cash terms excluding Climate Change Levy (CCL)

References and link to tables:
Table 3.1.1: Quarterly prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry (original units)
Table 3.1.2: Quarterly prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry (p/kWh)
Table 3.1.3: Annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry (original units)
Table 3.1.4: Annual prices of fuels purchased by manufacturing industry (p/kWh)

Compared to the previous year, heavy fuel oil consumers in the manufacturing industry in quarter 3 2023 have seen an average price decrease of 14 per cent or 1.4 pence per kWh in cash terms to 8.8 pence per kWh.

Between quarter 3 2023 and the same period in 2022, the average price paid by electricity consumers in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, decreased by 4.7 per cent or 0.9 pence per kWh to an average of 18.8 pence per kWh.

Compared to the previous year, in quarter 3 2023, the average price for gas consumers in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, decreased by 7.5 per cent or 0.4 pence per kWh. Decreasing from 4.9 pence per kWh in July to September 2022 to 4.6 pence per kWh in the same period in 2023.

Most of the variation in prices for gas for industrial use closely follows the trend in wholesale gas prices.

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9 Large is ‘Moderately Large’ for electricity
Also, over the same period, the average price paid for gas oil in the manufacturing industry, in cash terms excluding CCL, decreased by 26 per cent or 3.0 pence per kWh to an average of 8.61 pence per kWh from a peak of 11.6 pence per kWh in July to September 2022.

Chart 3.2: Average quarterly prices of fuels purchased by the manufacturing industry since Q2 2018
Average prices of fuels purchased by the major UK power producers

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

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

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

**Chart 3.3:** Price paid by UK power producers for coal and natural gas, quarterly

For quarter 3 2023 the price of coal was not available as no purchases of coal were recorded in our survey. As of publication, only two coal fired power stations remain in service, Ratcliffe-on-Soar and Kilroot. The latter site closed on the 30 September 2023.

The price in the previous quarter where information was available (quarter 2 2023) was 3.6 pence per kWh.

As shown in Chart 3.5, in quarter 2 2023 the price of gas, in pence per kWh, was around twice the price of coal leading to a price gap in cash terms of 3.3 pence per kWh.

The price of natural gas used for generation in quarter 3 2023 was 6.0 pence per kWh. This is a **23 per cent decrease** on the same quarter in the previous year and a **decrease of 13 per cent** on the previous quarter’s price.
Oil and Petroleum Product Prices

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

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

All underlying petroleum and oil data and other related publications can be found on GOV.UK here:

gov.uk/government/collections/road-fuel-and-other-petroleum-product-prices

In addition to the summary in this publication, average road fuel prices are also published in the **Weekly Road Fuel Prices** publication and are available at:

gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/oil-and-petroleum-products-weekly-statistics

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

**Crude oil prices**

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

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

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

**Chart 4.1: Monthly index of crude oil prices acquired at refineries**

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

Table 4.1.1: Typical monthly retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil index
Chart 4.1 shows the price indices of crude oil acquired by UK refineries over the past five years. Since March 2020, demand has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic which initially drove prices down, reaching a low in April 2020 before steadily rising throughout 2021 with a sharp uptick in early 2022 as volatility reflecting geopolitical events and the Russia-Ukraine conflict impacted global markets.

The latest available crude oil price index is for November 2023. Crude oil prices have increased compared to three months ago by 1.6 per cent and November’s price was down 31 per cent from the recent peak in June 2022. However, prices remain above pre-pandemic levels. Crude oil prices are 53 per cent higher than February 2020.

Retail prices of petroleum products

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

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

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

Chart 4.2: Average retail prices of road fuels, monthly

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

Chart 4.2 shows that, in mid-December 2023, a litre of petrol (ULSP) was on average 143.7 pence per litre. This was 7.6 per cent lower than the same period in 2022. Petrol prices are also 24 per cent lower than the recent peak of 188.8 pence per litre in mid-July 2022.

The diesel (ULSD) price was 151.9 pence per litre in mid-December 2023. This was a 15 per cent decrease from the same period in 2022. Additionally, this is a 23 per cent decrease from the recent peak of 197.4 pence per litre in mid-July 2022.

The gap between petrol and diesel widened over most of 2022 with the differential decreasing month on month from November 2022 when diesel was 24 pence per litre more expensive than unleaded. By July 2023 the price differential was just 1.8 pence per litre but the differential has widened over the rest of 2023 to a difference of 8.2 pence per litre by December 2023.
Prices of petroleum products are also affected by duty rate changes and by changes in the general rate of VAT. Duty for road fuels from 23 March 2011 to 22 March 2022 were set at 57.95 pence per litre. From 23 March 2022 duty was reduced to 52.95 pence per litre, initially as a one year temporary measure but since extended. In December 2023 duty made up 37 per cent of the total price, this is up from 34 per cent in December 2022. Chart 4.3 shows the components of the retail price of petrol in December 2022 and 2023. In December 2023, the “basic price” (includes wholesale fuel price, delivery & distribution costs and retail margin but excludes tax and duty) of petrol was 66.8 pence per litre, duty was at 52.95 pence per litre, and VAT at 20 per cent of basic price plus duty was 23.9 pence per litre.

The basic price made up 46 per cent of the total price in December 2023, this is down from 49 per cent in the previous year.

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

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

Reference and link to tables:
Table 4.1.1: Typical monthly retail prices of petroleum products and a crude oil index
International Price Comparisons

This section compares prices data for the United Kingdom with the European Union (and the International Energy Association (IEA) in the September issue). This issue includes both road fuel price comparisons with prices paid in the European Union as well as comparisons for domestic and non-domestic electricity and gas.

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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/international-energy-price-comparisons)

Data from other countries are used in this report to make consistent comparisons to highlight relative competitiveness. International prices vary due to many reasons including differences in indigenous resources and market structures, global issues, varying exchange rates and inflation rates.

Unleaded petrol and diesel prices

In **November 2023** the average UK unleaded petrol price, including tax and duty, was the **seventh cheapest** in the EU14 plus UK group at **152.2 pence per litre**. When presented in a common currency basis, the lowest price for unleaded across the EU14+UK was in Luxembourg at **134.7 pence per litre** while the highest price was in The Netherlands at **174.0 pence per litre**.

In **November 2023** the average UK diesel price, including tax and duty, was the **fourth most expensive** in the EU14 plus UK group at **160.2 pence per litre**. The lowest price for diesel across the EU14+UK was also in Luxembourg at **132.9 pence per litre** while the highest was in Sweden at **178.9 pence per litre**.

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

Source: European Commission Oil Bulletin
Reference and link to tables:
Table 5.1.1 and 5.2.1: Premium unleaded petrol prices in the EU
International electricity and gas prices

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

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

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

Industrial electricity price comparisons with EU Countries

Compared with the EU14, average industrial electricity prices (including taxes and levies) in the first six months of 2023 were highest in the UK. Finland had the lowest industrial electricity prices.

Chart 5.3 Industrial electricity prices in the EU and UK, January - June 2023

Source: Eurostat and DESNZ
Note: Ireland and Portugal have including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.
Reference and link to table:
Table 5.4.1: Industrial electricity prices in the EU and UK including and excluding taxes
Industrial gas price comparisons with EU Countries

Comparing UK and EU14 industrial gas prices in the first six months of 2023 the UK had the lowest average price including taxes and levies. With Sweden having the highest price including taxes and levies overall.

Chart 5.4 Industrial gas prices in the EU and UK, January - June 2023

Source: Eurostat and DESNZ
Note: Portugal have including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.
Reference and link to table:
Table 5.8.1: Industrial gas prices in the EU and UK including and excluding taxes
Domestic electricity price comparisons with EU Countries

Comparing the EU14 and UK, average domestic electricity prices in the first six months of 2023 were third highest (including taxes & levies and accounting for subsidies) in the UK. Spain had the lowest domestic electricity price, and The Netherlands had the highest price.

Chart 5.5 Domestic electricity prices in the EU and UK, January - June 2023

Source: Eurostat and DESNZ

Note: Portugal, Ireland, Austria and Luxembourg have including taxes less than excluding due to subsidies.
Reference and link to table:
Table 5.6.1: Domestic electricity prices in the EU and UK including and excluding taxes.
Domestic gas price comparisons with other IEA Countries

Comparing average domestic gas prices in the first 6 months of 2023 across the EU14 and UK, the UK had the fifth highest (when including taxes and levies). France had the lowest price overall and The Netherlands had the highest price including taxes.

Charts 5.6 Domestic gas prices in the EU and UK, January - June 2023

Source: Eurostat and DESNZ

Price comparisons with IEA Countries

The most recent comparisons with IEA countries are detailed in the September 2023 QEP publication found at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-energy-prices-september-2023

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

- Industrial electricity prices in the IEA (QEP 5.3.1)
- Industrial gas prices in the IEA (QEP 5.7.1)
- Domestic electricity prices in the IEA (QEP 5.5.1)
- Domestic gas prices in the IEA (QEP 5.9.1)
# 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 Accredited Official Statistics (formerly National Statistics) publication (which are published March, June, September and December each year).

## Domestic Tables

Tables for the Domestic energy prices area:

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<td>Percentage of domestic electricity customers by region and supplier type</td>
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## Industrial Tables

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**Fuel Tables**

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**International Tables**

Tables for the **International energy price comparisons** area:

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**Key:**

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

- **Annual**
- **Biannual**
- **Quarterly**
- **Monthly**
- **Scheduled Revision**
- **Financial Year Data**
Technical information

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

- The **domestic** bills information is collected as part of the Domestic Fuels Inquiry which surveys key energy suppliers to provide a representative sample of the market.
- **Non-domestic** data are sourced from the Quarterly Fuels Inquiry return, run by ONS on behalf of the Department and several other surveys run by the Energy Prices team including the Price Transparency survey, collections related to the Producer Price Index deliverable to ONS and the Generator’s Query collection.
- International comparisons data are sourced from the International Energy Association and European Union and include UK data collected by the Energy Prices team using the same definitions and standards through the Price Transparency survey.
- Fuel prices are sourced from data from weekly and monthly surveys of petrol prices collected by the Energy Price team.
- Data across all subject areas are also sourced from and corroborated with data from Ofgem, the ONS and other Department for Energy Security and Net Zero surveys.

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

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

- Domestic energy prices: data sources and methodology
- Industrial price statistics: data sources and methodologies
- International comparisons: data sources and methodologies
- Road fuel price statistics: data sources and methodologies

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

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

**Revisions policy**

The Department's **statistical revisions policy** sets out the revisions policy for these statistics, which has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority **Code of Practice for Statistics**.
Related publications

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

**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. 

**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](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-energy-in-brief)

**Fuel Poverty Statistics**

**Sub-National Energy Consumption Statistics**
Sub-National data are produced by the Department to emphasise the importance of local and regional decision making for energy policy in delivering several national energy policy objectives. Data is available here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/total-final-energy-consumption-at-sub-national-level](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/total-final-energy-consumption-at-sub-national-level)

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

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

**UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics**
Emissions data are produced by the Department to show progress against the UK’s goals, both international and domestic, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. 
UK Energy and CO2 emissions projections

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

Policy publications

The policies that the Department works on and the associated documentation can be found on the GOV.UK site here.

The energy statistics section is here:

The Energy White Paper

On 14 December 2020, the Energy White Paper was published, setting out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050. This is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future
Further information

Uses of these statistics

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

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

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet their needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed, please direct any suggestions about changes to the content or scope of this publication to the energyprices.stats@energysecurity.gov.uk mailbox.

The statement on statistical public engagement and data standards sets out the Department’s commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Accredited Official Statistics designation

Accredited Official Statistics (previously 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 an Accredited Official Statistics release. The full detail of the measures we take are outlined in the associated methodology documents.

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

Pre-release access to statistics

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

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

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

Responsible Statistician for this release
Tel: 0207 215 5073
Email: energyprices.stats@energysecurity.gov.uk

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

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