

Media Release: Wednesday 21 July 2009

Household Energy Price Index for Europe

July Prices Just Released

Who is paying the most? Who is paying the least? and where are prices heading in Europe?

WHAT IS THE HEPI?

Based on the electricity and natural gas prices collected both for incumbents and competitor companies in capital cities of EU15 member states, E-Control GmbH in cooperation with VaasaETT has compiled The Household Energy Price Index, HEPI. The HEPI is a weighted end user price index that assesses overall price developments in Europe.

The HEPI is Europe's only independent comparative monthly index of electricity and gas prices across the 'EU 15' states. Data is collected directly from utilities and authorities in the respective markets, using a thorough, precise and comparative definition and methodology.

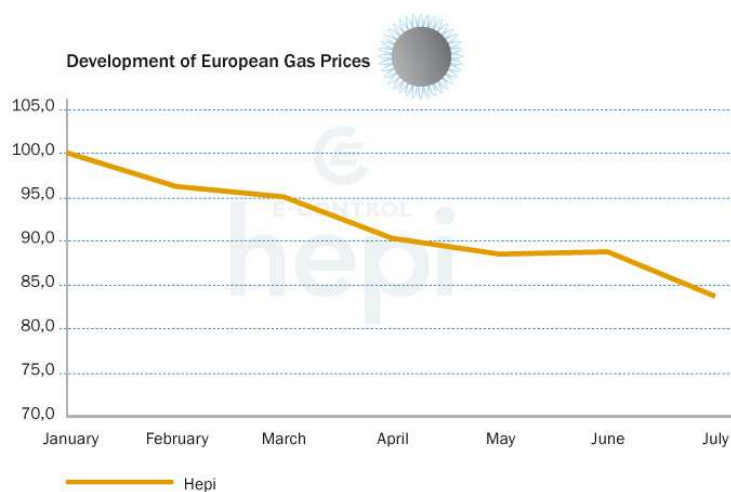
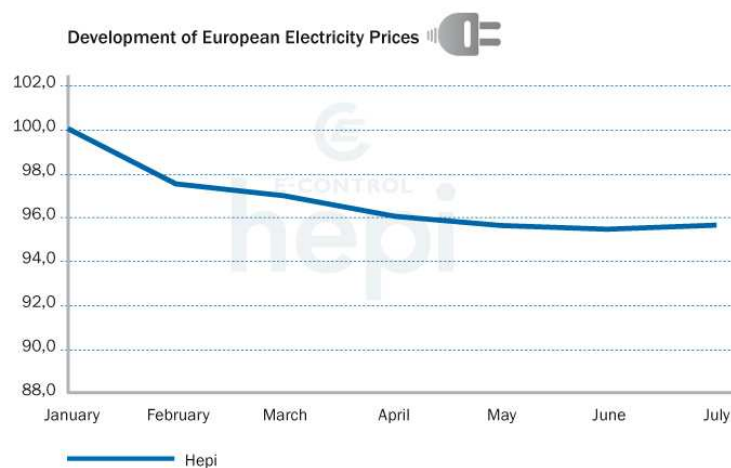
The HEPI project also compiles and publishes a monthly ranking and analysis of capital city prices within the EU15.

E-Control GmbH and VaasaETT will continue to publish HEPI every month until at least 2011.

KEY FINDINGS AS OF JULY 2009

Energy prices collected for both electricity and gas reveal that at the beginning of July 2009, electricity prices in EU 15 countries remained relatively constant. The index changed from 95.50 to 95.70. This slight increase was due to fact that decreases in electricity prices in some European countries were offset by increases in others. The overall effect is almost negligible.

As far as pre tax prices for natural gas are concerned, the picture portrayed by this month's HEPI is one of further decreasing prices. In EU15 countries, natural gas prices dropped pre tax on average by 6% in comparison to the previous months (in index terms: from 88.79 to 83.44, i.e. 5.35 base points). This is basically due to significant price decreases most notably in Italy, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, although natural gas prices did increase in other countries such as Greece and Luxemburg.



Source: E-Control and VaasaETT

Total Price Rankings (prices including energy, distribution and taxes)

- There remain big variations in the prices paid by European energy consumers.
- Household electricity customers in Copenhagen currently pay by far the highest prices within the capital cities of the EU15, around a third higher than Berlin, the next most expensive city. This is due largely to much higher energy taxes in Denmark, which make up the majority of the energy price.
- Customers in Athens and Helsinki pay the least, in fact just over one third of the prices paid by the Danes.
- For gas, it is household customers in Stockholm who pay by far the highest prices within the capital cities of the EU15, over 50% higher than in the next most expensive cities Copenhagen, Berlin and Rome.
- Household gas customers in London, pay less than in any other capital city, with the closest cities Athens, Luxembourg, Paris and Lisbon.
- July has witnessed many price changes; indeed Utilities carrying out quarterly changes as well as Utilities carrying out semi annual changes have all revised their prices this month. Whereas electricity prices show no clear trend, gas prices that did not change for 3 to 6 months have clearly been revised downwards. The most noticeable case relates to customers in Amsterdam who have enjoyed a 23% decrease in their gas price.

Ranking	Electricity (all tax included)			Gas (all tax included)		
	City	Price in € cent / kWh	Change / previous month	City	Price in € cent / kWh	Change / previous month
Most Expensive	1 Copenhagen	29,89	↓	Stockholm	13,97	↑
	2 Berlin	21,29	→	Copenhagen	9,12	↓
	3 Luxembourg City	19,90	↑	Berlin	6,95	↓
	4 Vienna	19,71	→	Rome	6,81	↓
	5 Amsterdam	19,55	↓	Vienna	6,68	→
	6 Brussels	19,30	↑	Dublin	5,85	→
	7 Dublin	18,20	↓	Amsterdam	5,76	↓
	8 Rome	16,64	↓	Madrid	5,46	↓
	9 Madrid	15,88	↑	Brussels	5,44	↓
	10 Lisbon	15,65	→	Lisbon	5,36	↓
	11 London	14,27	↑	Paris	5,33	↓
	12 Stockholm	13,98	↑	Luxembourg City	5,32	↑
	13 Paris	12,32	→	Athens	5,28	↑
	14 Helsinki	11,44	↑	London	4,36	↑
Cheapest	15 Athens	11,43	→			

Source: E-Control and VaasaETT (Prices as of July 1st 2009)

Unit Price Rankings (network prices excluding distribution and taxes)

- When the distribution price alone is taken into account, a very different picture emerges for gas.
- Concerning electricity distribution prices, London becomes the cheapest city, with Copenhagen staying the most expensive city. It is interesting to see that while Berlin is the second most expensive city when considering the total price, it moves down to the eighth position when only distribution is considered. The exact opposite can be said of Lisbon, while the city is ranked number ten when the total price is considered, it moves up to number four when it comes to distribution prices alone.
- However, the overall picture is that cities with high total electricity prices tend to have high electricity distribution prices as well.
- As mentioned above, the ranking proves to be very different when distribution prices only are taken into account. The most remarkable examples apply to Spanish and Portuguese customers who enjoy relatively moderate total prices but pay the most for their gas distribution. The opposite holds true for Dutch and German customers who while belonging to the upper part of the table when total prices are considered, pay the least for gas distribution.
- Generally speaking there exist big variations in the prices paid by European energy consumers for both electricity and gas distribution.

Ranking	Electricity Distribution Price		Gas Distribution Price		
	City	Price in € cent / kWh	City	Price in € cent / kWh	
Most Expensive	1	Copenhagen	8,73	Lisbon	2,66
	2	Luxembourg City	7,45	Madrid	2,61
	3	Brussels	6,79	Dublin	2,28
	4	Lisbon	5,61	Stockholm	1,88
	5	Amsterdam	5,34	Paris	1,86
	6	Madrid	5,30	Vienna	1,58
	7	Vienna	5,29	Athens	1,44
	8	Berlin	5,00	Brussels	1,43
	9	Dublin	4,84	Copenhagen	1,34
	10	Rome	3,87	Rome	1,09
	11	Helsinki	3,42	Luxembourg City	1,02
	12	Paris	3,23	London	0,92
	13	Stockholm	3,06	Berlin	0,86
	14	Athens	2,73	Amsterdam	0,72
Cheapest	15	London	2,34		

Source: E-Control and VaasaETT (Prices as of July 1st 2009)

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E-Control

E-Control GmbH was set up by the legislator on the basis of the new Energy Liberalisation Act and took up work on 1 March 2001. E-Control is headed by Mr Walter Boltz as the managing director and is entrusted with monitoring, supporting and, where necessary, regulating the implementation of the liberalisation of the Austrian electricity and natural gas markets. **More at: www.e-control.at**

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