

Media Release: Tuesday 16 June 2009

European Household Electricity Price Index for Europe (HEPI) June 2009

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.

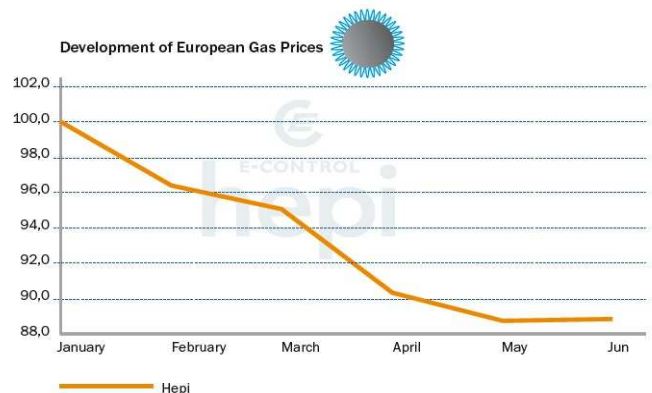
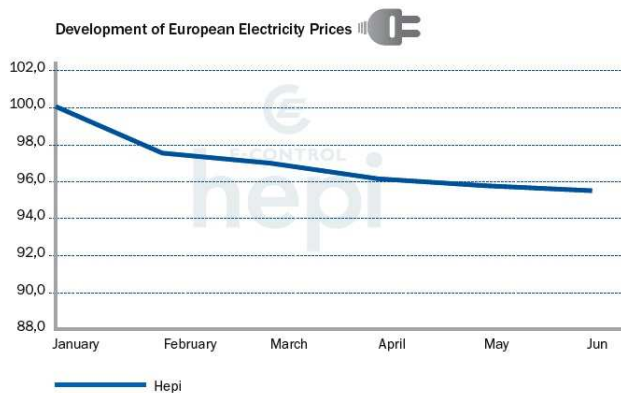
The HEPI project also compiles and publishes a monthly ranking and analysis of capital city prices within the EU15.

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

KEY FINDINGS AS OF JUNE 2009

European Energy Prices Stabilizing

The figures for the HEPI in June reveal that gas end-user prices for households (excluding taxes) have finally stopped falling. Electricity end-user prices (excluding taxes) are still decreasing but by a slower rate than previously, having fallen less steeply than gas prices since January this year. Until June this year gas and electricity prices had been decreasing constantly across EU15 member states since January 2009. The retail price stabilization is thought to be a reflection of recent changes in wholesale prices and predictions.



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, Luxemburg, Paris and Lisbon around 20-27% more expensive.

| 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 | 30,88 | ⇒ | Stockholm | 13,85 | ↑ |
| | 2 | Berlin | 21,29 | ⇒ | Copenhagen | 9,23 | ↑ |
| | 3 | Amsterdam | 20,17 | ⇒ | Amsterdam | 7,48 | ⇒ |
| | 4 | Luxembourg City | 19,86 | ↓ | Rome | 7,35 | ⇒ |
| | 5 | Vienna | 19,71 | ⇒ | Berlin | 7,29 | ⇒ |
| | 6 | Brussels | 19,24 | ↑ | Vienna | 6,68 | ⇒ |
| | 7 | Dublin | 18,61 | ↓ | Dublin | 5,85 | ↓ |
| | 8 | Rome | 16,80 | ⇒ | Madrid | 5,77 | ⇒ |
| | 9 | Madrid | 15,86 | ⇒ | Brussels | 5,46 | ↓ |
| | 10 | Lisbon | 15,65 | ⇒ | Lisbon | 5,42 | ⇒ |
| | 11 | London | 13,93 | ↓ | Paris | 5,37 | ↑ |
| | 12 | Stockholm | 13,74 | ↑ | Luxembourg City | 5,23 | ↓ |
| | 13 | Paris | 12,32 | ⇒ | Athens | 5,12 | ↓ |
| | 14 | Athens | 11,43 | ⇒ | London | 4,26 | ⇒ |
| Cheapest | 15 | Helsinki | 11,11 | ↓ | | | |

Source: E-Control and VaasaETT (Prices as of June 2009)

Unit Price Rankings (energy prices excluding distribution and taxes)

- When the price of the electricity alone is taken into account, a very different picture emerges.
- Concerning household electricity prices, Paris becomes the cheapest city, with Copenhagen moving from most expensive (in the total price rankings) to the third cheapest, just ahead of Helsinki. Dublin is the most expensive followed by Rome, London and Amsterdam. Berlin moves from being the second most expensive (in the total price rankings) to being one of the five cheapest.
- Household electricity customers in Dublin pay around 140% more for their energy (excluding distribution and taxes) than those in Paris.
- Household gas customers pay the most for gas in Stockholm, Berlin and Amsterdam, with Iberian customers in Madrid and Lisbon paying the least. Dublin, the most expensive for electricity, is the third cheapest for gas. London, which is the cheapest in the Total Price rankings for gas, is only the sixth cheapest in the gas unit price rankings.
- In general the markets which are less expensive in the Total Price Rankings than in the Unit Price Rankings are markets which have low distribution prices or low taxes.

| Ranking | Electricity Price Unit | | Gas Unit Price | |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | City | Price in € cent / kWh | City | Price in € cent / kWh |
| Most Expensive | 1 Dublin | 11,48 | Stockholm | 6,93 |
| | 2 Rome | 10,72 | Berlin | 4,31 |
| | 3 London | 10,37 | Amsterdam | 4,13 |
| | 4 Amsterdam | 10,27 | Luxembourg City | 3,81 |
| | 5 Luxembourg City | 10,10 | Athens | 3,25 |
| | 6 Lisbon | 9,30 | Copenhagen | 3,20 |
| | 7 Vienna | 8,54 | Vienna | 3,12 |
| | 8 Brussels | 7,99 | Rome | 3,06 |
| | 9 Madrid | 7,80 | London | 3,03 |
| | 10 Athens | 7,76 | Paris | 3,00 |
| | 11 Berlin | 7,37 | Brussels | 2,96 |
| | 12 Stockholm | 5,36 | Dublin | 2,88 |
| | 13 Copenhagen | 5,16 | Lisbon | 2,65 |
| | 14 Helsinki | 5,12 | Madrid | 2,36 |
| Cheapest | 15 Paris | 4,75 | | |

Source: E-Control and VaasaETT (Prices as of June 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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