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Gas prices for EU households and industrial consumers on 1 January 2006

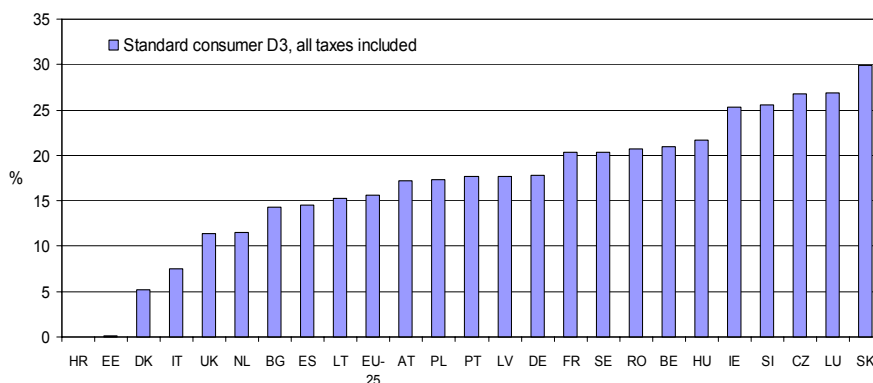
In 2005 the EU-25 gas prices went up on average by 16% for households and 33% for industrial consumers

Highlights

EU-25 gas prices expressed in euro increased by 16% for households* and by 33% for industrial consumers* between January 2005 and January 2006.

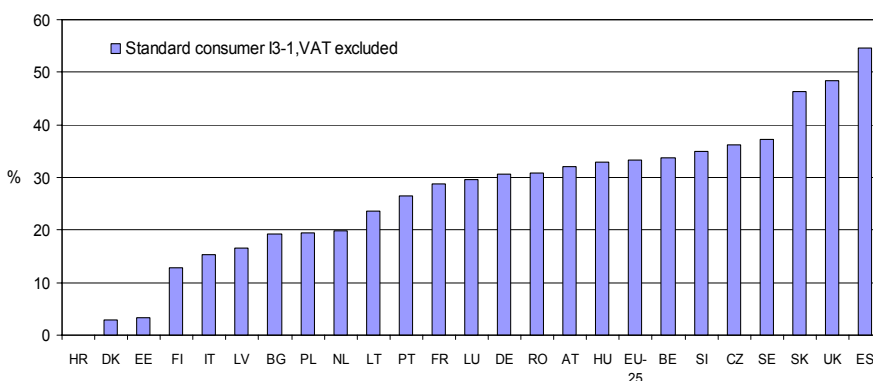
For households, the largest price increases between January 2005 and January 2006 occurred in Slovakia (30%), Luxembourg and the Czech Republic (27%).

Graph 1: Evolution of gas prices in national currency for households (standard consumer D3) between January 2005 and January 2006 (in %)



For industrial consumers, the largest price increases between January 2005 and January 2006 occurred in Spain (55%), the UK (48%) and Slovakia (46%).

Graph 2: Evolution of the gas prices in national currency for industrial consumers (standard consumer I3-1) between January 2005 and January 2006 (in %)



* Throughout this publication, a reference to "households" will relate to standard household consumer D3 unless indicated otherwise. The same applies for industrial consumers which refer to standard industrial consumer I3-1 unless indicated otherwise.

Gas Prices January 2005 – January 2006

Table 1: Gas prices for households : January 2005 – January 2006 (in national currency per GJ)

Standard consumer D3: annual consumption of 83.7 GJ , all taxes included

	EU-25	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU
January 2005	11.26	11.16	227.09	211.60	13.56	72.44	11.90	10.57	9.98	15.34	3.16	18.68	8.14
January 2006	13.02	13.50	287.97	222.50	15.98	72.52	13.63	12.72	12.51	16.50	3.72	21.54	10.33

	HU	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO
January 2005	1526.17	15.17	13.36	30.80	12.34	2477.00	314.00	200.70	5.07	13.17	60.32	18.29
January 2006	1856.25	16.92	15.65	36.15	14.52	3110.00	408.00	241.60	5.65	15.06	60.32	22.07

Table 1 illustrates the trend in household gas prices between 1 January 2005 and 1 January 2006 for EU Member States, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania

This shows that gas prices for household consumers **went up in all EU Member States.**

The highest increases are observed in Slovakia (30%), Luxembourg and Czech Republic (27%). Gas prices for domestic consumers remained unchanged in Croatia.

The price increases in most of the countries are mainly due to an increase in the basic price. No significant tax increase was observed between January 2005 and January 2006.

The EU-25 aggregated gas price for households (this aggregate is weighted by national consumption) shows an increase of 16 % between January 2005 and January 2006.

Similar increases (between 12% and 18%) have been observed for other standard consumer types.

Table 2 : Gas prices for industrial consumers : January 2005 – January 2006 (in national currency per GJ)

Standard consumer I3-1 : annual consumption of 41.86 TJ , VAT excluded

	EU-25	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU
January 2005	6.45	5.32	154.81	50.50	8.87	43.06	4.68	6.42	:	6.64	2.42	12.45	6.95
January 2006	8.60	7.11	210.84	52.00	11.58	44.51	7.24	8.27	:	7.65	2.82	15.38	9.01

	HU	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO
January 2005	1487.23	5.60	8.19	21.64	6.03	1412.00	196.00	6.91	83.20	4.26	7.39	50.79	14.04
January 2006	1975.92	6.71	10.81	25.85	7.63	1907.00	287.00	7.79	114.20	6.32	8.81	50.79	18.37

Table 2 illustrates the trend for industrial gas prices between 1 January 2005 and 1 January 2006 for EU Member States (except Ireland, which did not report data for the standard consumer I3-1) and for Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.

This shows that gas prices for industrial consumers increased in all 21 EU Member States that have reported gas prices for this consumer type. The

significant price increase in most countries is due to an increase of the basic price.

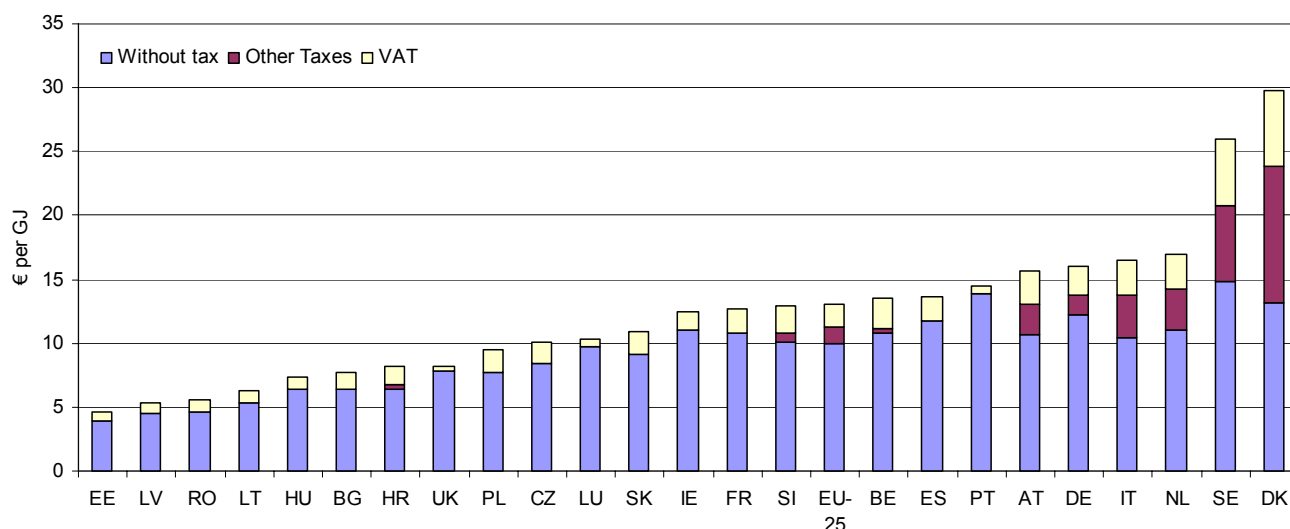
The EU-25 aggregated gas price for industrial consumers (this aggregate is weighted by national consumption) shows an increase of 33% between January 2005 and January 2006.

Similar increases (between 30 and 38%) can also be observed for the other standard consumers.

Composition of the gas prices

Graph 3 : Composition of the gas prices for domestic consumers on 1 January 2006 (in euro per GJ)

Standard consumer D3 : annual consumption of 83.7 GJ



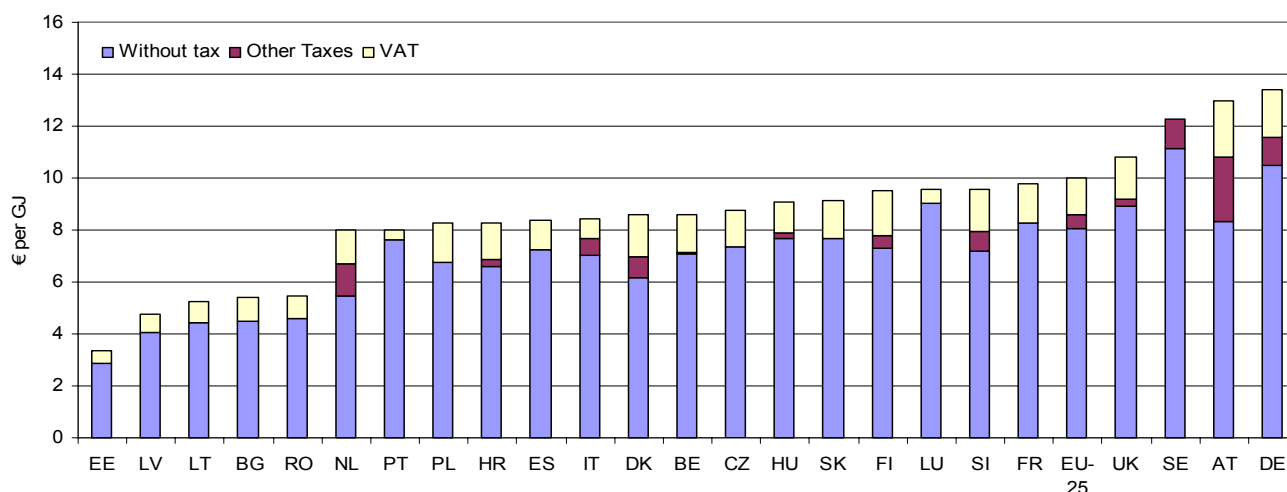
For household consumers, gas prices on 1 January 2006 were the most expensive in Denmark and Sweden, both over EUR 20 per GJ.

The lowest prices in the EU for household consumers were found in the three Baltic countries, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

As of 1 January 2006 the EU-25 average price (this price is weighted with 2004 annual national consumption for the domestic sector) is EUR 13.02 per GJ.

Graph 4 : Composition of the gas prices for industrial consumers on 1 January 2006 (in euro per GJ)

Standard consumer I3-1 : annual consumption of 41.86 TJ



For industrial consumers, gas prices (including all taxes) on 1 January 2006 were the most expensive in Germany, Austria and Sweden, all over EUR 12 per GJ.

The lowest prices for this standard consumer were charged in the three Baltic countries; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

As of 1 January 2006 the EU-25 average price (weighted by 2004 annual national consumption for the industrial sector) is EUR 9.98 per GJ.

Share of taxes in the final prices

Table 3 : Share of taxes in gas prices as of 1 January 2006

Standard consumer D3, annual consumption of 83.7 GJ

Standard consumer I3-1, annual consumption of 41.86 TJ

Share of taxes in the households prices :

	Basic price	Other taxes	V.A.T	All Taxes
	in € per GJ			in %
UK	7.84	0.00	0.40	4.8
PT	13.83	0.00	0.69	4.8
LU	9.74	0.00	0.59	5.7
IE	11.02	0.00	1.49	11.9
HU	6.44	0.00	0.96	13.0
ES	11.75	0.00	1.88	13.8
LV	4.54	0.00	0.80	15.0
FR	10.81	0.00	1.91	15.0
EE	3.93	0.00	0.70	15.1
LT	5.29	0.00	0.95	15.2
RO	4.64	0.00	0.88	15.9
CZ	8.43	0.00	1.60	16.0
SK	9.12	0.00	1.76	16.2
BG	6.42	0.00	1.28	16.6
PL	7.76	0.00	1.70	18.0
BE	10.75	0.42	2.33	20.4
HR	6.42	0.37	1.39	21.5
SI	10.03	0.79	2.17	22.8
DE	12.25	1.53	2.20	23.3
EU-25	9.93	1.34	1.75	23.7
AT	10.72	2.32	2.61	31.5
NL	11.09	3.13	2.70	34.5
IT	10.43	3.32	2.75	36.8
SE	14.80	5.96	5.19	43.0
DK	13.19	10.67	5.96	55.8

Share of taxes in the industry prices :

	Basic price	Other taxes	V.A.T	All Taxes
	in € per GJ			in %
PT	7.63	0.00	0.38	4.7
LU	9.01	0.00	0.54	5.7
SE	11.15	1.11	0.00	9.1
ES	7.24	0.00	1.16	13.8
LV	4.05	0.00	0.72	15.1
LT	4.45	0.00	0.81	15.4
HU	7.66	0.22	1.18	15.5
EE	2.84	0.00	0.52	15.5
FR	8.27	0.00	1.52	15.5
RO	4.59	0.00	0.87	15.9
CZ	7.34	0.00	1.40	16.0
SK	7.65	0.00	1.47	16.1
IT	7.04	0.61	0.76	16.3
BG	4.50	0.00	0.90	16.7
UK	8.92	0.29	1.61	17.6
PL	6.77	0.00	1.48	17.9
BE	7.06	0.05	1.50	18.0
EU-25	8.08	0.52	1.38	19.0
HR	6.57	0.31	1.41	20.7
DE	10.47	1.11	1.85	22.0
FI	7.32	0.47	1.72	23.0
SI	7.17	0.79	1.59	24.9
DK	6.17	0.80	1.61	28.1
NL	5.48	1.23	1.27	31.3
AT	8.34	2.47	2.18	35.8

Table 3 shows the proportion of taxes in the overall gas price for household and industrial consumers.

The figures in column 1 are the prices without any taxes, figures displayed in columns 2 and 3 are absolute tax contributions in euro per GJ. The last column shows the relative share of all taxes in the final gas price.

Household consumers

For household consumers, the relative amount of tax contribution is the lowest in the United Kingdom and in Portugal where a relatively low VAT rate of 5% is applied to the basic price and no energy or other taxes are applied.

Luxembourg has also a low share of taxes in the final gas price paid by end-users.

The highest taxes are charged in Denmark where more than half of the final price is made up of taxes.

Industrial consumers

For industrial consumers, the lowest tax rates (all under 10%) can be found in Portugal, Luxembourg and Sweden.

A significant proportion of taxes in the final price is observed in Austria, the Netherlands and in Denmark.

It should be noted, however, that in many countries VAT registered companies are exempt from VAT or have it reimbursed. As these special arrangements are difficult to quantify (it may differ from region to region within industrial sectors), these reductions are not taken into consideration in this survey.

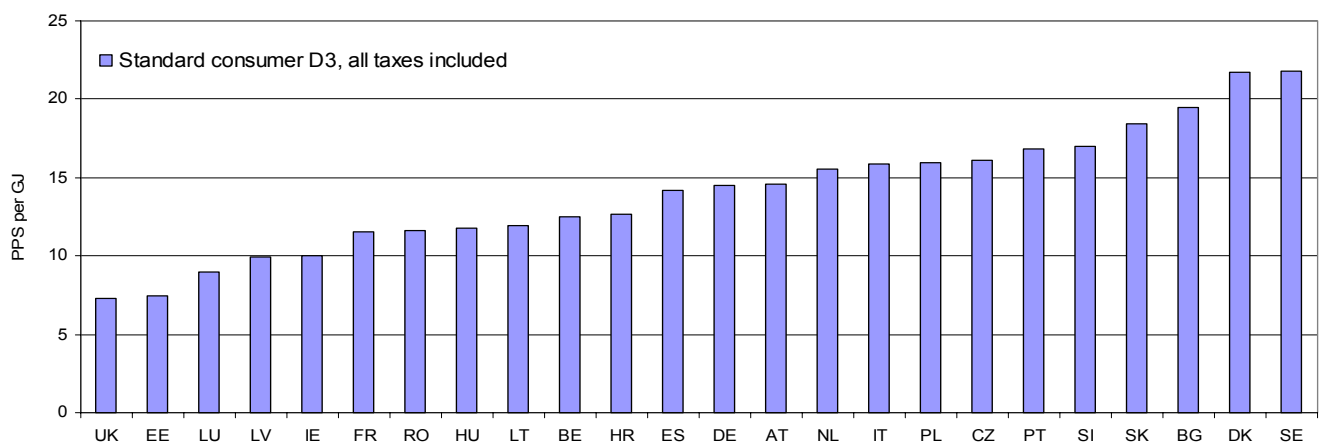
Prices in Purchasing power standards (PPS) per GJ

Table 4 : Prices in PPS per GJ (Households : D3, all taxes included ; Industry : I3-1 , without VAT)

	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	HU
Households (D3)	12.48	16.09	21.68	14.53	7.47	14.20	11.53	10.03	15.83	9.91	11.96	9.00	11.80
Industry (I3-1)	6.57	11.78	5.07	10.53	4.58	7.54	7.50	:	7.34	7.51	8.54	7.85	12.56
	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO	
Households (D3)	15.53	14.56	15.95	16.79	16.97	18.40	:	21.81	7.30	19.49	12.67	11.60	
Industry (I3-1)	6.16	10.06	11.40	8.82	10.41	12.94	6.78	10.31	8.16	11.39	10.67	9.66	

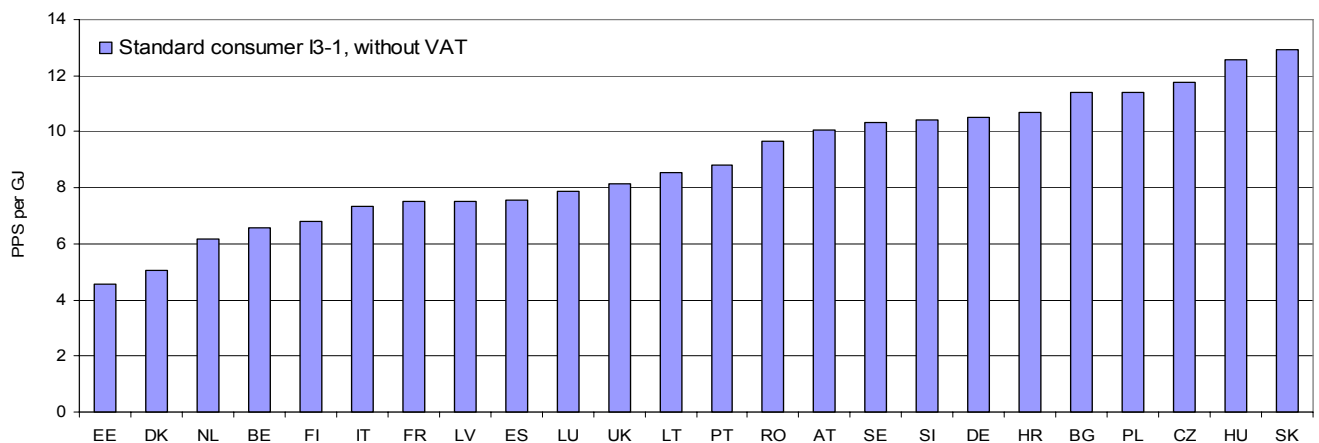
Graph 5: Prices in PPS per GJ for domestic consumers as of 1 January 2006

Standard consumer D3: annual consumption of 83.7 GJ, all taxes included



Graph 6: Prices in PPS per GJ for industrial consumers as of 1 January 2006

Standard consumer I3-1: annual consumption of 41.86 TJ, VAT excluded



In graphs 5 and 6, Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) are used to make alternative international comparisons. PPS is an artificial common reference currency unit that eliminates price level differences between countries. One PPS thus buys the same given volume of goods/services in all countries.

From this comparison, it follows that, relative to the cost of other goods and services, gas for households is the most expensive in Sweden and Denmark.

For industrial consumers, Slovakia and Hungary have the highest gas price expressed in PPS.

Evolution of the EU-15 gas prices and of the oil prices

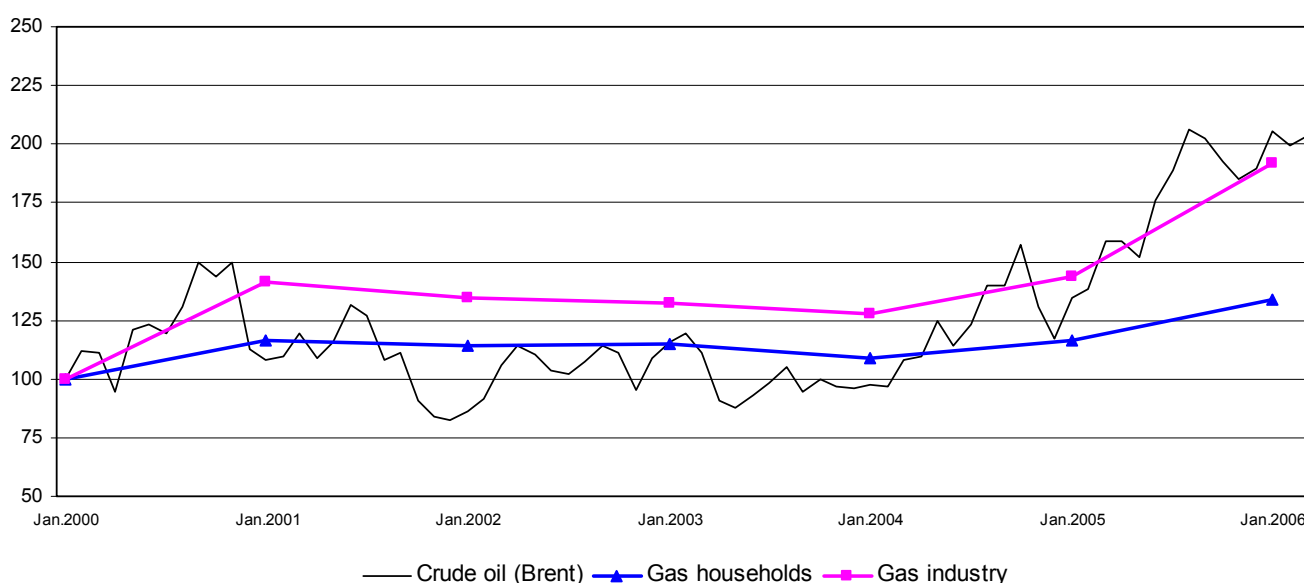
Table 5: EU-15 prices in euro per GJ (Households : D3, all taxes included; Industry : I3-1, VAT excluded)

	Jan 2000	Jul 2000	Jan 2001	Jul 2001	Jan 2002	Jul 2002	Jan 2003
Households (D3)	10.01	10.65	11.65	11.71	11.43	11.19	11.49
Industry (I3-1)	4.57	5.41	6.46	6.54	6.16	5.76	6.03
	Jul 2003	Jan 2004	Jul 2004	Jan 2005	Jul 2005	Jan 2006	
Households (D3)	11.63	10.93	10.97	11.68 ^e	12.10 ^e	13.42 ^e	
Industry (I3-1)	5.91	5.85	5.90	6.57 ^e	7.04 ^e	8.76 ^e	

e: estimates (data based on 2004 gas consumption)

Graph 7: Trend in EU-15 gas prices compared to the trend in oil prices (2000 - 2006)

Index January 2000 = 100



Graph 7 shows the trend in gas prices for household and industrial consumers over the last 6 years.

As some of the 10 recently acceded EU Member States started reporting gas prices only since 2004, only EU-15 average prices are shown in the graph.

Household consumers

Taking 2000 as a starting point, the average price actually paid by household consumers increased significantly between January 2000 and January 2001, but remained relatively stable thereafter until January 2005. From January 2005 to January 2006 a price increase of about 15% can be observed.

Industrial consumers

As VAT is often deductible for industrial and commercial consumers, subject to the general tax

system, the graph looks at the development of industrial gas prices excluding VAT but including other taxes, duties and levies applicable in individual countries.

As in the household sector, a significant price increase was observed between 2000 and 2001. From 2001 to 2004, the average price paid by industry at EU-15 level for a GJ of gas decreased by 9%, but price increases were observed from 2004 onwards.

IPE BRENT Crude Oil Price

Between 2000 and 2006, the trend in gas prices for industrial consumers was in line with the increase in the IPE Brent Crude Oil Price for the same period (increase from EUR 25 per BBL to EUR 52 per BBL).

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION - METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Standard Consumers

In order to compare gas prices between different countries, and to observe price differences for different consumption volumes, typical standard consumers are defined, both for household and for industrial consumers.

For household consumers, 5 typical consumers are defined within the consumption range of 10-1000 GJ per year. For Industrial consumers, a similar set of standard consumers is defined within the range of 400 GJ per year and 4 million GJ per year.

Standard consumers for households:

Standard consumer	Annual consumption
D1	8.37 GJ (i.e. 2 326 kWh)
D2 (*)	16.74 GJ (i.e. 4 652 kWh)
D3	83.70 GJ (i.e. 23 260 kWh)
D3-b	125.60 GJ (i.e. 34 890 kWh)
D4	1047.00 GJ (i.e. 290 750 kWh)

(*) For the United Kingdom there is an additional standard consumer, i.e. D2b 33.49 GJ (or 9 300 kWh).

For the European Union as a whole, it is however not possible to define a unique typical household consumer e.g. for a family with 3 persons with gas heating, as northern countries consume generally more gas than southern countries.

The information provided in this publication concentrated mainly on medium standard consumers (D3 for households and I3-1 for industry) but price information for other standard consumers as defined below are available on Eurostat's website.

Standard consumers for industry:

Standard consumer	Annual consumption
I1	418.6 GJ (i.e. 0.1163 GWh)
I2	4 186 GJ (i.e. 1.163 GWh)
I3-1	41 860 GJ (i.e. 11.63 GWh)
I3-2	41 860 GJ (i.e. 11.63 GWh)
I4-1	418 600 GJ (i.e. 116.3 GWh)
I4-2	418 600 GJ (i.e. 116.3 GWh)
I5	4 186 000 GJ (i.e. 1163 GWh)

* Methodological information on: http://europa.eu.int/estatref/info/sdds/en/sirene/energy_sm2.htm

EU averages

EU-25 = weighted average for the following countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Ireland (households only), Italy (estimated prices for industry), Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria (estimated prices for industry), Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland (industry only), Sweden and the United Kingdom. Greece, Cyprus and Malta do not have a significant gas market and therefore did not report gas prices.

Exchange rates

Prices for the standard consumers are given in national currencies, PPS (purchasing power standard, annual estimated value) and in euro (average value for January 2006).

Conversion table in PPS and euro

		1 PPS =	1 EUR =			1 PPS =	1 EUR =
Belgium	BE (EUR)	1.08	1.00	Malta	MT (MTL)	0.31	0.43
Czech Rep.	CZ (CZK)	17.90	28.72	Netherlands	NL (EUR)	1.09	1.00
Denmark	DK (DKK)	10.26	7.46	Austria	AT (EUR)	1.07	1.00
Germany	DE (EUR)	1.10	1.00	Poland	PL (PLN)	2.27	3.82
Estonia	EE (EEK)	9.71	15.65	Portugal	PT (EUR)	0.86	1.00
Greece	EL (EUR)	0.88	1.00	Slovenia	SI (SIT)	183.24	239.49
Spain	ES (EUR)	0.96	1.00	Slovakia	SK (SKK)	22.18	37.49
France	FR (EUR)	1.10	1.00	Finland	FI (EUR)	1.15	1.00
Ireland	IE (EUR)	1.25	1.00	Sweden	SE (SEK)	11.08	9.31
Italy	IT (EUR)	1.04	1.00	United Kingdom	UK (GBP)	0.77	0.69
Cyprus	CY (CYP)	0.55	0.57	Bulgaria	BG (BGN)	0.77	1.96
Latvia	LV (LVL)	0.38	0.70	Croatia	HR (HRK)	4.76	7.38
Lithuania	LT (LTL)	1.80	3.45	Romania	RO (ROL)	1.90	4.00
Luxembourg	LU (EUR)	1.15	1.00	Norway	NO (NOK)	11.88	8.04
Hungary	HU (HUF)	157.26	250.71				

Further information:

Reference publications

Title [Gas and electricity market statistics](#)
Catalogue No KS-71-05-392-EN-C
Price 30 EUR

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/Environment and energy/Data](#)

Environment and energy

 Environment

 Energy

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 Energy Statistics (ES) - quantities

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 ES - Petroleum products - half-yearly prices

 **ES - Gas - domestic consumers - half-yearly prices**

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