# Compilers guide on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices

2016 edition


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2016 edition

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# Foreword

The aim of the compilers guide on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices is to provide an overview of conceptual issues and practical information and guidance for reporting authorities that will compile and report natural gas and electricity price statistics to Eurostat.

The growing interest of natural gas and electricity price data for the household's sector and the need of additional micro data has resulted in a new regulation, which has been adopted on 17 November 2016. Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 that repeals Council Directive 2008/92/EC does not only include a legal obligation for reporting authorities to provide households natural gas and electricity prices but also introduced additional elements that will have to be reported for a better analysis of the natural gas and electricity price structures.

The primary purpose of the compilers guide is to provide guidance to reporting authorities to compile and report natural gas and electricity price data in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner. The compilers guide includes examples of 5 reporting authorities that illustrate the practical application of Regulation (EU) 2016/1952, in particular the reporting of taxes, fees, levies and charges sub-components.

The electronic version of the Eurostat Compilers guide on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices will be updated on a regular basis especially the section on questions and answers.

The latest version of this guide will be available on the Eurostat website.

This guide will be a useful resource to both compilers and users of data on natural gas and electricity prices.

Eurostat expresses sincere thanks to all those involved in the production of this compilers guide.

# 1 Introduction

The energy sector has been in the spotlight in recent years due to a number of issues that have pushed energy to the top of national and European Union (EU) political agendas. Actually, one of the 10 priorities of the European Commission is an Energy Union. It is intended that an European Energy Union will ensure secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for all its citizens and businesses.

One of the actions of the Energy Union Package under the chapter of the internal energy market defines an analysis of energy prices and costs to be carried out in 2016 and every two years thereafter.

An additional set of sub-components on taxes and levies and network prices on natural gas and electricity has been drawn up in order to reflect the goals of the Energy Union Package and, in particular, addresses the need for greater transparency on energy costs and prices referred to in action point 8 of the Package.

Price analysis can be carried out only if high-quality official statistics are available regarding the different components and sub-components of natural gas and electricity prices. In order to guarantee the uniform reporting of high-quality price data for the household sector and for the non-household sector, the collection of both types of data is covered by the Regulation (EU) 2016/1952, which entered into force on 17 November 2016.

The data provided to the Commission (Eurostat) on prices and conditions of sale to final customers, and the relative breakdown of the number of final customers by consumption in each consumption band, should contain all the information necessary to enable the Commission to decide on appropriate measures or proposals in relation to energy policy.

The in-depth analysis of European energy prices and costs is based on three main price components: energy & supply, network, and taxes, fees, levies and charges, which help to better understand the relationship between energy prices and policy. These elements are used also by the user to analyse what drives the gas and electricity bills and to assess the price competition in the retail market at the level of European Union.

A good understanding of the taxes, fees, levies and charges in each Member State is essential for ensuring price transparency. This component of the consumer energy bill was identified as being the major source of the price divergence at the European level and of the lack of comparability of energy prices across Member States.

The purpose of this compilers guide is to provide guidance on the concepts and definitions used by the Commission (Eurostat) to collect the electricity and gas natural gas prices. As such difference with the price collection utilised by the IEA are set out in the FAQ section in Annex A. This compilers guide is intended to support data providers in reporting electricity and natural gas price data in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner. It is also intended to guide data users so they can better understand the concepts and definitions behind the data.

To make the data as consistent, reliable and transparent as possible, it is important both to provide clear definitions of price components, and to share common practices in the collection of electricity and natural gas price statistics. It is for this reason that this compilers guide includes examples of country practices.

This compilers guide consists of ten chapters and three annexes.

Chapter 2 presents background information on the data collection of natural gas and electricity prices. The background information consists of a short summary of the legal basis for EU energy price statistics; data collection on energy prices statistics, including a presentation of the main actors involved, definition of the main variables used, coverage and possible data sources.

Chapter 3 focuses on the description of the questionnaires that are to be used for the reporting of the energy price statistics.

In Chapter 4 and chapter 5 guidance is given on reporting frequencies and deadlines, and on quality report.

Chapter 6 describes the format and arrangements for data transmission established and adopted by the Commission (EUROSTAT).

Chapter 7 to Chapter 11 give information on the data collection in 5 countries.

Annex 1 presents the REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users; Regulation (EU) 2016/1952

Annex 2 presents the 4 questionnaires which have to be used for the reporting of the natural gas and electricity prices.

Annex 3 contains a list of frequently asked questions on natural gas and electricity price statistics. This list will be extended or a regular basis.

# 2 Background information on the collection of data on natural gas and electricity prices

Our modern society relies on energy that is available whenever and wherever it is needed, at generally affordable and stable prices, the supply of which can be relied upon in the near future. Industry, transport, comfortable homes, effective workplaces and the safety of the nation are all made possible by ever more ingenious methods of provision and application of various sources and forms of energy. The expectations of the European Union (EU) in the energy sector are set out very clearly in the Lisbon Treaty. The energy sector has been in the spotlight in recent years due to a number of issues that have pushed energy to the top of national and EU political agendas. Currently, one of the 10 priorities of the European Commission is an Energy Union. It is intended that a European Energy Union will ensure secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy.

At the European Council on 22nd May 2013 on energy and taxation, heads of state and government stated that the EU's energy policy should aim to provide households and companies with affordable and competitively-priced energy in a safe and sustainable manner. Consequently, the Commission was asked to provide analysis of the 'composition and drivers of energy prices and costs in Member States'. This analysis was to focus on the impact of energy prices on households, small and medium-sized enterprises and energy-intensive industries, and, more broadly, examine the EU's competitiveness in relation to its global economic counterparts.

The Commission, having identified that additional detailed pricing data was needed for this analysis, collected the required information from all 28 EU Member States on the basis of a voluntary arrangement. A report, including detailed analysis of the components of natural gas and electricity prices, was presented to the Council in January 2014.

In 2014, policymakers made several requests for more detailed official statistics on natural gas and electricity prices. At its meeting on 13th June 2014, the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council acknowledged the negative impact of high and rising energy prices and costs on Europe's global competitiveness and on the standard of living of individual consumers. For this reason, the TTE Council called for a 'follow-up review by the Commission on energy prices and costs and on consumers by 2016'.

The European Commission adopted on 25th February 2015 the Energy Union Package. The Energy Union strategy has five mutually-reinforcing and closely interrelated dimensions, designed to bring greater energy security, sustainability and competitiveness:

- energy security, solidarity and trust;
- a fully integrated European energy market;
- energy efficiency contributing to moderation of demand;
- decarbonising the economy, and

- research, innovation and competitiveness.

One of the key functions of the Energy Union Package, under the chapter of the internal energy market, is an analysis of energy prices and costs to be carried out in 2016 and every two years thereafter.

An additional set of sub-components on taxes and levies and network prices on natural gas and electricity has been drawn up in order to reflect the goals of the Energy Union Package and, in particular, addresses the need for greater transparency on energy costs and prices referred to in action point 8 of the Package.

## 2.1. Legal basis for EU energy price statistics

Council Directive No 90/377/EEC of 29 June 1990, Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users, OJ L 185, 17.7.1990, p. 16-24

Commission Decision No 2007/394/EC of 7 June 2007 amending Council Directive 90/377/EEC with regard to the methods to be applied for the collection of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 148, 9.6.2007, p. 11-16

Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users (recast) (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 298, 7.11.2008, p

REGULATION (EU) 2016/1952 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users

The collection of natural gas and electricity prices for the household sector has been carried out on a voluntary basis since 1985. Since 1990, non-household end-user prices have been regulated by a Directive.

The EU has acted to liberalise electricity and gas markets since the second half of the 1990s. It is anticipated that increased transparency for gas and electricity prices should help to promote fair competition, by encouraging consumers to choose between different energy suppliers. Energy price transparency can be made more effective by disseminating price statistics and pricing systems as widely as possible.

The first Directive for the collection of energy prices came into force in 1990. Council Directive 90/377/EEC outlines the procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users.

It covered prices charged to industrial consumers only; household energy prices were only provided on a voluntary basis. Back then, the process of liberalisation of the European energy market was just beginning, basically in the United Kingdom. The price statistics at the time were collected on the basis of tariffs for standard consumers. Consumers paid a fixed tariff based on their key consumption characteristics: annual consumption, voltage and the so-called ‘load factor’ (number of hours consumed per day).

As the liberalisation process progressed, the notion of tariffs, especially for industries, did not make much sense. The method of price data collection in a liberalised market and what energy prices should cover had to reflect the fact that real prices are set by market forces and are not the fixed tariffs used in the past.

Consequently, the Council Directive 90/377/EEC concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices paid by industrial end-users has been significantly amended.

A new method of collecting of price data paid by industrial consumers was agreed by Member States in December 2006. The following changes were introduced (Commission Decision 2007/394/EC):

- collection of national prices instead of regional prices;
- prices for electricity and natural gas provided by the companies based on the real prices paid by industrial consumers, averaged over a given period of six months;
- the definition of standard consumers replaced by consumption bands, including one for big industrial users;
- collection of disaggregated electricity prices (separate component price data for energy & supply, network and taxes).

As with all important methodological changes, there has been a transition phase. The first complete data set using the new methods became available for the first half of 2008.

The Directive, which was adopted in 2008 (Directive 2008/92/EC), defines the procedure of data collection of gas and electricity prices charged to non-household consumers. It replaces the Council Directive 90/377/EEC. At the end of November 2015, the proposal of the new regulation was presented to the public and was discussed in 2016 by the EU Commission, EU Parliament and European Council. The main reasons behind this proposal were:

- In 2013, delegates of the Energy Statistics Working Group indicated that the voluntary data collection regarding gas and electricity prices for the household sector is in danger due to the absence of a legal basis (a possible candidate for the reduction of the reporting burden for gas and electricity enterprises);
- The demand for data on energy prices for the household sector is significant;
- Energy Council (May 2013): Request for an analysis of the composition and drivers of energy prices and costs with a focus on households, SMEs and energy-intensive industries;
- The Energy Council (June 2014) called for a follow-up review of the 2014 report by the Commission on energy prices and costs and on consumers by 2016
- The Energy Union Package (Feb. 2015) called for the analysis of energy prices and costs to be published in 2016 and every two years thereafter;
- The European Council Conclusions of 19th March 2015 mandated the Commission to periodically carry out a detailed analysis of energy prices and costs.

The new requirements introduced by this regulation are:

- Reporting of natural gas and electricity prices for the household sector will be obligatory under the proposed regulation. There will be no obligation for data providers to report price data relating to natural gas for the household sector if the consumption is below 1.5% of the national total energy consumption in the household sector
- Introduction of sub-components, both for gas and electricity prices
    - Network (2 sub-components)
        - Global average relative share of transmission costs, expressed as a percentage of total network costs;
        - Global average relative share of distribution costs, expressed as a percentage of total network costs;
    - Taxes, fees, levies and charges (6 sub-components)
        - Value added tax (VAT);
        - Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation;

- Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to capacity payments, energy security and generation adequacy; taxes on coal industry restructuring; taxes on electricity distribution;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes, to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emission taxes;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the nuclear sector, including nuclear decommissioning, inspections and fees for nuclear installations (electricity only);
- All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five (gas: four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices);

- Introduction of one additional consumption band for very large consumers, both for gas and electricity;
- Extension of the deadline for reporting final price data from 2 to 3 months after the reference period

## 2.2. Data collection on energy price statistics

The price and reliability of energy supplies, electricity in particular, are key elements in a country's energy supply strategy. Electricity prices are of particular importance for international competitiveness, as electricity usually represents a significant proportion of total energy costs for industrial and service-providing businesses.

The purpose of the 'Compiler's guide to European statistics relating to natural gas and electricity prices' is to provide necessary information and guidance to the reporting bodies that will compile the data and report the natural gas and electricity price statistics to Eurostat.

The main actors involved in the data collection process for gas and electricity prices are the Commission (Eurostat), the Member States, through the relevant national authorities and the parties responsible for providing the information on gas and electricity prices at a national level, i.e. enterprises which supply gas or electricity to end-users (households and non-households sector)

The responsibilities of the reporting authorities and the Commission are defined by the Regulation: Eurostat collects and publishes EU statistics; Member States compile the gas and electricity prices in accordance with the established rules and transmit them to Eurostat within defined deadlines.

The collection, compilation and calculation of national energy prices must be in line with the subsidiary principle.

### Responsibility of Eurostat

The Commission (Eurostat) collects national data on natural gas and electricity prices using a method that enables price comparisons between Member States. This price data must be collected at an EU level to ensure that the data is reliable and comparable across all EU Member States and to aggregate data for the EU and for the euro area.

The transparency of electricity and natural gas prices is guaranteed through the obligation of EU Member States to send Eurostat information relating to prices for different categories of end-users, as well as data relating to market shares, conditions of sale, and pricing systems.

Electricity and gas tariffs or price schemes vary from one supplier to another. They may result from

negotiated contracts, especially for large industrial users. For smaller consumers, they are generally set according to the amount of electricity or gas consumed, along with a number of other characteristics; most tariffs also include some form of fixed charge. There is, therefore, no single price for electricity or natural gas.

In order to compare prices over time and between countries, the information required by Eurostat is detailed using a number of pre-defined consumption bands for household and non-household consumers.

There are in total five different types of households for which electricity prices are collected, according to annual consumption bands, while for natural gas statistics, information is collated for three different types of households.

Across non-households consumers, electricity prices are collected for a total of seven different types of users, while for natural gas prices there are six. Quantities of natural gas used for chemical processes or electricity production are excluded from the survey.

Every 3 years, the Commission (Eurostat) will assess the quality of the transmitted data and the information provided in the quality reports and prepare and disseminate a summary quality assessment report.

## Responsibilities of Member States

In line with the subsidiarity principle, natural gas and electricity price regulations impose obligations on Member States, while letting States decide how to organise data collections and how to share responsibilities between national administrations.

Member States should compile the data on natural gas and electricity prices by using the most appropriate sources and methods to provide the required information. Therefore, Member States must take the steps necessary to ensure that organisations which supply gas or electricity to end-users inform them of the form, content and all other relevant information regarding natural gas and electricity prices.

Also, Member States must draw up a quality report demonstrating how this data is calculated. This report is to include information on the scope and method of collection of the data, the calculation criteria, methods and data sources used, and any changes in the sources or methods.

## Responsibilities of national reporting authority

The natural gas and electricity price legislation does not determine any criteria or requirements about exactly which institution in a Member State should be responsible or how it should operate. In some countries, the national reporting authority is the national statistical office, in other countries it is the national energy regulator or other national energy authority set up by national legislation.

The reporting authorities that are responsible for the collection of price data and the computation of average national energy price data will have to ensure that the collected information is in line with the established rules and that the data will be transmitted to Eurostat within the defined deadlines.

### 2.1.1. DEFINITIONS OF THE MAIN VARIABLES USED

Member States must transmit information on the relative share of natural gas and electricity in each consumption band based on the total volume to which the prices refer, and the prices which are to be subdivided into their three main components and sub-components.

Prices to be reported are prices charged to household and final non-household consumers buying electricity/natural gas for their own use.

The prices in question are to include all charges payable: network charges plus energy consumed,

minus any rebates or premiums, plus other charges (e.g. meter rental, standing charges).

Prices are to be weighted according to the market share of the natural gas or electricity supply undertakings in each consumption band. If it is not possible to calculate weighted average prices, arithmetic average prices may be provided. In either case, the data must cover a representative share of the national market.

Market shares should be based on the quantity of electricity or natural gas billed by the suppliers to household end-users. If possible, market shares will be calculated separately for each band. The information used for calculating weighted average prices will be managed by Member States, respecting confidentiality rules.

'Energy and Supply' prices will include the following costs: generation, aggregation, balancing energy, supplied energy costs, customer services after sales management, and other supply costs.

'Network" price will include the following costs: transmission and distribution tariffs, transmission and distribution losses, network costs, after-sale service costs, system service costs, and meter rental and metering costs.

### 2.1.2. COVERAGE

*Geographical coverage*

Member States are to ensure that the data collection and compilation is in accordance with methods set out by Eurostat, provide comprehensible and comparable high-quality data that is representative of their respective natural gas and electricity prices and consumption.

*Sector coverage*

The data on natural gas and electricity retail prices charged to final consumers in the household and non-household sectors are to be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat).

In the case of natural gas prices, consumers who use natural gas only for: (i) electricity generation in power plants or in combined heat and power (CHP) plants; or (ii) non-energy purposes (e.g. for use in the chemical industry) are to be excluded.

Member States will not be obliged to transmit data on natural gas prices for household consumers to the Commission (Eurostat) if the consumption of natural gas in the household sector is below a threshold of 1.5 % of national total energy consumption in the household sector.

The Commission (Eurostat) shall review regularly, at least every 3 years, which Member States qualify, according to the consumption of natural gas in the household sector of their country, for being excluded from the obligation to transmit data.

*Coverage of reporting units*

Natural gas includes natural gas and other gaseous fuels blended with natural gas in the transmission and distribution network, such as biogas. Other gaseous fuels that are distributed through dedicated networks without being blended with natural gas (e.g. gas works gas, coke oven gas, blast furnace gas and biogas) are to be excluded.

The data must include all household and non-household end-users of electricity, but electricity generated and consumed by auto producers is to be excluded from the reporting obligation.

### 2.1.3. DATA SOURCES

The data provided to the Commission (Eurostat) on prices and conditions of sale to final consumers, and the breakdown of the number of final consumers by consumption in each consumption band is

based on a standard form prepared by the Commission (Eurostat). More details about this standard form are presented in the next chapter. The appropriate data transmission format is a questionnaire in MS Excel file format.

The data collected by the Member States from enterprises which supply energy to the end-users could come from the following types of sources

- statistical surveys:
  - specific statistical surveys related to natural gas and electricity retail prices addressed to producers or traders, transmission and distribution system operators, importers or exporters of energy products, and suppliers;
  - other statistical surveys addressed to consumers in the household sector and final consumers in the non-household sector;
- administrative sources, such as those held by national regulators of the natural gas and electricity markets;
- other sources applying sound statistical estimation procedures.

# 3 Description of the questionnaires

The overall objective of the questionnaires on natural gas and electricity prices is to provide internationally comparable data and to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to end-users.

This section focuses on a detailed description of the questionnaires as well as modifications and new requirements concerning the reporting of data introduced by Regulation (EU) 2016/1952.

It also provides a comparison between the old (introduced in 2007) and the new version of the questionnaires and it gives an overview of the information on the new variables which should be reported by Member States.

## 3.1. General overview

Regarding the natural gas and electricity prices similar to the previous reporting practices, questionnaires are addressed, for each product, to two categories of end-users (sectors) i.e.: for household and non-household consumers. Summing up, there will be four questionnaires that should be used for official data transmissions: two for electricity and two for natural gas. Prices recorded are to be based on the same system of standard consumption bands defined by the ranges of annual natural gas and electricity consumption by different types of consumers i.e. small, medium, large, very large.

Setting out the main modifications to the data reporting process proposed by new questionnaires helps Member States to introduce the changes in data collection surveys in a consistent manner. The following changes to the questionnaires have been made:

- more disaggregated price data regarding taxes, fees charges and levies are requested;
- regarding the consumption bands for non-household and household end-users the same types of data are requested by Eurostat. In the case of **household users,** Member States have a legally binding obligation to report them on regular basis to Eurostat;
- the relative consumption volumes for each type of consumption band have to be provided by Member States. This information should be reported in the questionnaires on an annual basis;
- two sub-components of network price data on natural gas and electricity prices for both household and non-household end-users should be provided to Eurostat;

A detailed description of the changes is provided in the following sections.

### 3.1.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The first part of the questionnaire asks for some general information regarding:

- the product to which the information (data) refers: natural gas or electricity
- the type of the end-user (sector) covered by the data: household or non-household
    - note that household prices had to be reported on voluntary basis in the past, and that after the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2016/1952, the reporting of household data is obligatory
- period to which the data is referring: Year and Semester (1 or 2)
- country: this can be selected from a drop down menu that contains a list of countries
- reporting organisation: the reporting authorities that are responsible for the price data reporting
- contact details: the name of the person who is responsible within the reporting organisation and the e-mail address
    - this will be used to clarify inconsistencies in the data provided

### 3.1.2. CONSUMPTION BANDS

The range of prices available to consumers in different consumption bands provides an indication of the level of choice and diversity in the market and the possible savings that could be achieved if consumers switched to the lowest tariff.

The price which should be reported by Member States must be based on a system of standard annual **natural gas and electricity consumption bands**. Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 introduces an additional consumption band for very large non-household consumers, both for gas and electricity. In the absence of any international standard of classification of the consumption bands, the intervals for each band has been adopted by the Commission at the moment that Commission Decision No 2007/394/EC came into force.

Reference consumers are characterised by the following annual consumption bands:

#### Natural Gas Prices

(a) For **household consumers**, the following bands are to be applied:

Band-D1 (Small): annual consumption below 20 GJ

Band-D2 (Medium): annual consumption between 20 and 200 GJ

Band-D3 (Large): annual consumption above 200 GJ

(b) For **final non-household consumers**, the following bands are to be applied:

Band-I1: annual consumption below 1 000 GJ

Band-I2: annual consumption between 1 000 and 10 000 GJ

Band-I3: annual consumption between 10 000 and 100 000 GJ

Band-I4: annual consumption between 100 000 and 1 000 000 GJ

Band-I5: annual consumption between 1 000 000 and 4 000 000 GJ

Band-I6: annual consumption above 4 000 000 GJ

## Electricity Prices

(a) For **household consumers**, the following bands are to be applied:

Band-DA (Very small): annual consumption below 1 000 kWh

Band-DB (Small): annual consumption between 1 000 and 2 500 kWh

Band-DC (Medium): annual consumption between 2 500 and 5 000 kWh

Band-DD (Large): annual consumption between 5 000 and 15 000 kWh

Band-DE (Very large): annual consumption above 15 000 kWh

(b) For **final non-household consumers**, the following bands are to be applied:

Band-IA: annual consumption below 20 MWh

Band-IB: annual consumption between 20 and 500 MWh

Band-IC: annual consumption between 500 and 2 000 MWh

Band-ID: annual consumption between 2 000 and 20 000 MWh

Band-IE: annual consumption between 20 000 and 70 000 MWh

Band-IF: annual consumption between 70 000 and 150 000 MWh

Band-IG: annual consumption above 150 000 MWh

### 3.1.3. PRICE COMPONENTS

In order to better understand the relationship between energy prices and policy, it is necessary to disaggregate prices into their various components and sub-components. This disaggregated information is used by the user to analyse what drives gas and electricity bills and to assess price competition in the retail market at the level of the European Union.

A major source of price divergence at the European level is the different tax regimes existing in the Member States. The in-depth analysis of European energy prices and costs shows that the European framework for energy taxation does not provide for a full harmonisation, so Member States may change their taxes and tax rates individually, going beyond the core elements or minimum levels contained in EU law.

Another source of non-comparability of energy prices between different national markets, which is also related to taxes and levies, is due to the divergence of the billing system. The composition of taxes and levies which has to be included in the consumer bills differs from country to country, and therefore the price details based on component and on taxation are often not directly comparable between countries.

In order to avoid this lack of comparability at a European level, the prices of natural gas and electricity to be reported by Member States should cover:

- Level of detail based on taxation:
  - Level 1 prices excluding all taxes, levies and VAT;
  - Level 2 prices excluding VAT and all other recoverable taxes and levies;
  - Level 3 prices including all taxes, levies and VAT (also if it is refundable).
- Level of detail required for the components:
  - Energy and supply;

- Network costs;
- Taxes, fees, levies and charges.

## Level of detail based on taxation

### Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges

The new Regulation ensures explicitly that taxes and levies are not included in the energy & supply or the network component. As against Directive 2008/92/EC, the new Regulation proposed that this price level should include only the energy and supply component and the network component. The meaning of this is that all taxes, fees, levies and charges are excluded from this price level, irrespective of whether or not they are or are not explicitly mentioned on consumer bills.

### Prices excluding value added tax (VAT) and other recoverable taxes

This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered non-recoverable for final non-household consumers. For household consumers this price level includes the energy and network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges, but excludes VAT.

### Prices including all taxes

This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges.

## Level of detail required for components

The disaggregated prices of the three main components have to be reported only once a year, along with the price data **covering the actual calendar year.**

As against the Directive 2008/92/EC, the new Regulation stipulates that the disaggregated prices of the three main components has to be reported by the Member States not only for electricity, but for natural gas as well.

## Energy and supply costs

For natural gas, the cost of this component must include the commodity price for natural gas paid by the supplier or the price of natural gas at the point of entry into the transmission system, including, if applicable, storage costs plus costs relating to the sale of natural gas to final consumers.

For electricity, this component must include the following costs: generation, aggregation, balancing energy, supplied energy costs, customer services, after-sale management and other supply costs.

#### Network costs

For natural gas, the network price must include the following costs: transmission and distribution tariffs, transmission and distribution losses, network costs, after-sale service costs, system service costs and meter rental and metering costs. For electricity, the network price must include the following costs: transmission and distribution tariffs, transmission and distribution losses, network costs, after-sale service costs, system service costs, and meter rental and metering costs.

According to Regulation (EU) 2016/1952, two additional sub-components for both gas and electricity prices are to be reported by Member States: total average relative share of transmission costs, expressed as a percentage of total network costs;

- and total average relative share of distribution costs expressed as a percentage of total network costs.

## Taxes, fees, levies and charges

Once a year, along with the price reporting for the second semester, the Member States must report the total cost of taxes, fees, levies and charges on gas and electricity sales. The total cost of the taxes, fees, levies and charges on gas and electricity sales is the sum of all sub-components listed by Regulation (EU) 2916/1952.

As has been described above, there are two clearly separate categories of taxes that can be used to describe the taxes, fees, levies and any other fiscal charges:

- taxes, fees, levies and any other fiscal charges considered non-recoverable, which might or might not be listed on consumer bills. These taxes, fees, levies and any other fiscal charges have to be included under the reported figures for the price level of 'Prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes';
- value added tax (VAT) and other recoverable taxes identified on consumer bills. The items described here are to be included under the reported figures for the price level: 'Prices including all taxes'.

An outline of the different categories of taxes, fees, levies, and fiscal charges that can be applicable, in the case **of natural gas**, are:

- Value added tax as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to strategic stockpiles, capacity payments and energy security; taxes on gas distribution; stranded costs and levies on financing energy regulatory authorities or market operators;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to air quality and the environment; taxes on emissions of CO2 or other greenhouse gases;
- All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices.

The different categories of taxes, fees, levies, and fiscal charges that can be applicable, in the case **of electricity** are:

- Value added tax as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation;
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to capacity payments, energy security and adequate capacity for generation; taxes on coal industry restructuring; taxes on electricity distribution. Stranded costs and levies on financing energy regulatory authorities or market operators
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes, to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emission taxes
- Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the nuclear sector, including nuclear decommissioning, inspections and fees for nuclear installations

- All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices.

### 3.1.4. CONSUMPTION VOLUMES

Member States are obliged to transmit information on the **relative** share of **natural gas** and **electricity** in each consumption band based on the total volume to which the prices refer.

The annual consumption volumes for each consumption band are to be reported once a year, at the same time that the price data for the second semester is reported.

The consumption volumes should be supplied based on the latest available annual consumption figures or sold quantities. The consumption volumes according to which consumers are placed in a certain band will be determined on the basis of the consumption by that consumer over the last 12 months (2 semesters). If no data is available for the last 12 months, the consumer will be assigned a consumption based on their consumption in the reporting semester, as a share of the annual consumption for that band.

The consumption data must not be older than two years.

### 3.1.5. UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

The prices to be reported are the national average prices charged to household and final non-household consumers.

Regarding **electricity prices,** they should be expressed in national currency per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

**Natural gas prices** are to be expressed in national currency per gigajoule (GJ). The unit of energy used is to be measured on the basis of the gross calorific value (GCV).

Both **natural gas and electricity prices** are to be weighted according to the market share of supplier companies in each consumption band. If it is not possible to calculate weighted average prices, arithmetic average prices may be provided. In either case, the data must cover a representative share of the national market.

# 4 Reporting frequencies and deadlines

According to the new Regulation, natural gas and electricity prices must be reported no more than 3 months after the reference period.

Natural gas and electricity prices are reported to Eurostat twice a year and electricity and natural gas price components and sub-components once a year.

The prices are collected twice a year, at the beginning of each six-month period (January and July), and refer to the average prices paid by household and non-household end-users over a period of six months.

The published data are national average prices over a period of 6 months. Semester 1 prices are average prices between 1st January and 30th June of each year, semester 2 prices are average prices between 1st July and 31st December of each year.

Once every three years, information about the compilation system applied must be sent to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and including a description of the survey and its scope (number of suppliers surveyed, aggregated percentage of the market represented, etc.) and the criteria used to calculate the weighted average prices, as well as the aggregated consumption volumes represented by each band.

# 5 Quality reports

According to the new regulation, the Member States must submit to the Commission (Eurostat) a quality report on the data every three years, demonstrating how the electricity and natural gas prices and volumes are calculated. The structure of the quality report will be determined by the Commission from 2017 onwards.

It is expected that the first reporting of the quality report will take place in 2019, describing the data collection for 2018

# 6 Transmission methods

Member States must provide the data in a manner described in Regulation (EU 2016/1952, using the format and arrangements for data transmission established and adopted by the Commission.

## 6.1. The standard transmission tool (EDAMIS)

Data files are sent using Eurostat's Single Entry Point system for NSIs' and ONAs' data transfers, EDAMIS. It requires registration in the EDAMIS system, user ID and password. Confirmation after receiving the file is sent automatically by EDAMIS.

EDAMIS is a complete environment that offers data transmission and management services in the European Statistical System. It stands for "Electronic Data files Administration and Management Information System". It includes:

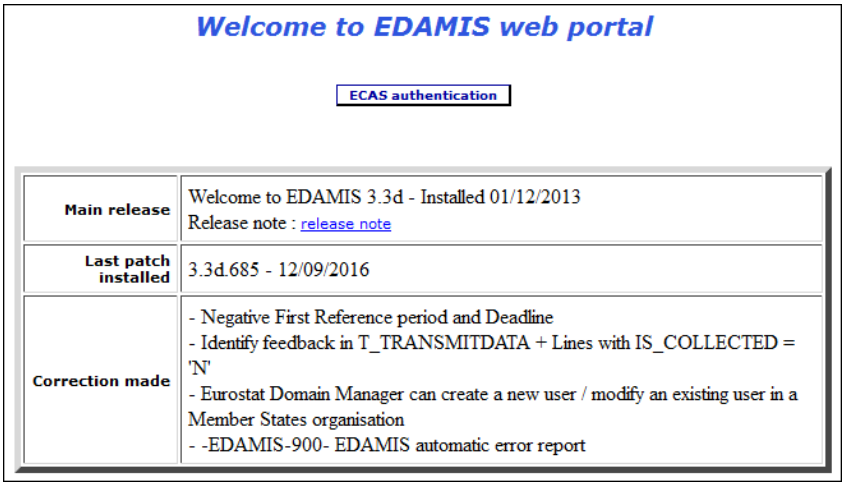
- advanced data transmission facilities for all Eurostat data providers, mainly based on three main approaches: the EWA (EDAMIS Web Application), the EWP (EDAMIS Web Portal) direct upload system and the EWF (EDAMIS Web Form) which looks like a spreadsheet.
- advanced data reception features at the Eurostat "Single Entry Point" (SEP), which is the EDAMIS server
- a reporting system that provides reports on traffic

### 6.1.1. REGISTRATION IN EDAMIS

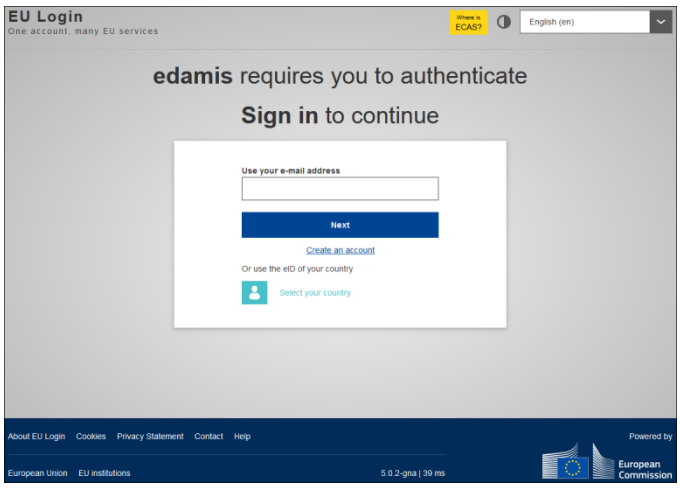
The external EDAMIS users who are already registered in the system should select the 'ECAS authentication' tab in order to log in.

Steps to be followed:

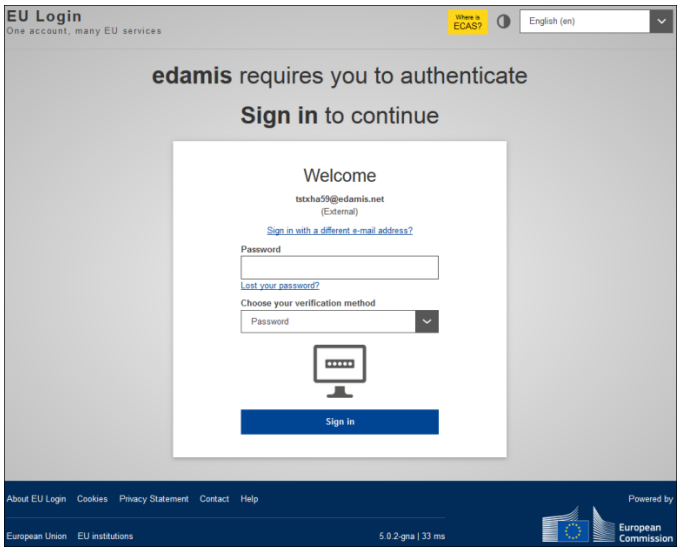
- Go to the EDAMIS portal using the URL https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/edamis
- Click on 'ECAS authentication' button.




- You will see the following page.




- Enter your e-mail account and click on the 'Next' button.



- Enter your password and click on 'Sign in' button.
- You will be connected to EDAMIS.

If you do not yet have your own ECAS account, please self-register at EU Login by selecting the 'Create an account' tab (figure presented under the third step presented above).

Then you will be redirected to the EU Login registration form, which should be filled in by new users. Then select the 'Create an account' button. At that stage, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you.

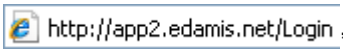
Please take the following into account:

- The confirmation e-mail contains a link to activate the account, which is the final step in the registration process. Therefore, make sure to enter a valid address in the account creation form in order to receive the e-mail.
- Once the registration is completed, you can use your e-mail address to log into EDAMIS.
- The system will automatically create a username based on parts of your first and last names. The generated username will be included in the account activation email.

### 6.1.2. REGISTRATION TO EDAMIS WEB APPLICATION

The EWA is a local HTTP server that enables the secure transmission of data from Member States to Eurostat. The statistical data that needs to be transmitted to Eurostat is made available to the EWA, which converts it into a standardised message and uses a telecommunication component (STATEL – hidden for the data sender) to transfer the message to the EDAMIS server in Eurostat. Based on the metadata associated with the data in the message, the server knows where and how to deliver the data. The server then sends an acknowledgement to the EWA to inform the user that the data has been delivered.

The first step required for transmitting the data to Eurostat using EWA is to obtain the URL from the administrator of the local EWA, who usually is the national "Transmission Coordinator" or "the Local Coordinator". The administrator in your country will provide a user-ID, which in principle, should be identical to the user's EU Login user-ID.

Once the user has both a URL and a user-ID, he/she can open his/her web browser and copy the provided URL into the address field. This URL is the internal hyperlink under which the EWA has been installed and it looks like 

, or it can also be an address – (depending on your network configuration) – such as http://192.168.1.100/Login.

When logging in for the first time, the user must only fill in his/her User-ID and leave the password field empty. The registration process will be completed during the first login, during which he/she will have the possibility to specify his/her own password.

Once the registration is complete, the full main menu is made available and a confirmation that the user management parameters have been updated.

The upper right corner of the EWA window shows the status of the connection to Eurostat. If the status line is green, datasets will be transmitted to Eurostat. If the status line is red, there might be a communication problem and it would be advisable to contact your EWA system administrator or the Local Coordinator.

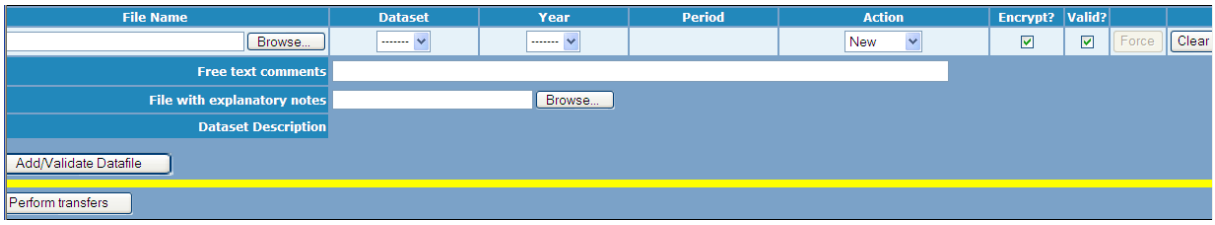
## 6.2. Data transmission

### 6.2.1. SENDING THE DATA IN INTERACTIVE MODE

Sending a data file to Eurostat in interactive mode is as simple as this:

- Log on to the EDAMIS Web Application
- Select “Send Data file”
- Browse for the file to transmit
- Complete the metadata as requested
- Click Perform Transfers

Go to “Send Data File” on the main menu and the “Send Data File” screen appears;




The screen areas are as described in the table below:

| | |
|---|---|
| *1* | ***File name***<br>This is the name of the file which will be sent to Eurostat. It can be any file type or size. The EDAMIS Web Application will automatically complete the “send data file” input form, provided that the file name is structured according to the dataset naming convention and that the file is GESMES formatted. This includes the dataset, the year, the period and the action fields |
| *2* | ***Dataset***<br>In the dataset drop down box is the list of datasets that the user is supposed to send to Eurostat. as configured by the administrator of the EDAMIS Web Application. |
| *3* | ***Year***<br>This is the year of the reporting period, for example “2016”. |
| *4* | ***Period***<br>This is the reporting period and it depends on the periodicity of the dataset. This field is grey when it is not relevant. For instance, it is not visible for yearly datasets, since the year itself is sufficient to determinate the coverage of the reported data. |
| *5* | ***Action***<br>The action code is only given as information and has no effect on the data transmission chain. It can be “New”, “Append”,” Partial”, “Replace” or “Other”. When used, there must be an agreement |

about the meaning of the action code between the production unit at Eurostat and the data providers in Member States.

| | |
|---|---|
| *6* | ***Encrypt?*** |
| | In the EDAMIS inventory, when a domain has an encryption key attached to it, the encrypt flag is automatically proposed to the data sender. When ticked, the data file which is transmitted will be encrypted with the public encryption key attached to the domain which the dataset belongs to. At that time, only the owner of the corresponding private key (domain manager at Eurostat) will be able to decode the ciphered data file. |
| *7* | ***Valid?*** |
| | In the EDAMIS inventory, when a dataset has defined validation rules, the valid flag is automatically proposed to the data sender. It will then be possible to check the coherence of the data file against the defined validation rules before sending the data to Eurostat. The [Add/Validate] button will launch the validation and the validation report will appear in a separate window. If the validation does not report validation errors, then the [Perform Transfer] button will be enabled, allowing the data file to be transmitted. If the validation fails, the data sender must correct the corresponding file and process it again. In any case, the data sender is able to "force" a transmission using the [Force] button even if the data file does not match the validation rules. |
| *8* | ***Force*** |
| | The [Force] button can be used to "force" a data file transmission. |
| *9* | ***Clear*** |
| | The [Clear] button allows a row from the "send data file" input screen to be deleted. |
| *10* | ***Free text comments*** |
| | This is a place where the data sender can leave a free text message for the attention of his/her counterpart at Eurostat. It has a maximum length of 256 characters. |
| *11* | ***File with explanatory notes*** |
| | When a description of the method used for collection needs to be provided, an explanatory note is used. This allows the data sender to attach a file which has a maximum size of 2Mb. It will be delivered to the statistician in charge of the dataset, together with a notification message. |
| *12* | ***Browse*** |
| | The [Browse] button allows the data sender to "browse" the directories in which the data files are located. |
| *13* | ***Add/Validate*** |
| | The [Add/Validate] button has two functions. It allows a list of several data files to be transferred to Eurostat to be compiled in the case of multiple transmissions, and if validation rules exist for the dataset(s), it performs the validation of the attached data file. |

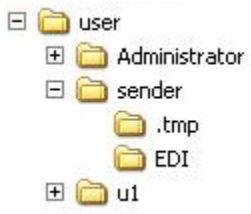
***14 Perform transfer***

The [Perform transfer] button, used at the final stage, transmits of the data file(s) which has/have been selected with the [Add/Validate] button.

### 6.2.2. SENDING THE DATA IN FULLY-AUTOMATED MODE

Fully-automated mode allows a third party application to deliver data files in a particular directory of the EWA belonging to a specific user. Usually, EWA is installed by default under the \\EWA directory on a dedicated server. Under the "EWA" directory there is a "user" subdirectory containing all defined EWA users. In each user's sub-directory, there is an "EDI" sub-directory. Once data files are placed in this specific directory, EWA considers that these data files must be automatically sent to Eurostat.

EWA regularly browses all EDI users' sub-directories and whenever a data file is found, EWA initiates an automatic transmission to Eurostat.




The mechanisms which allow fully-automated mode to work effectively rely on the use of dataset naming conventions to build the data file name (which is the envelope) or on the use of GESMES-formatted data files.

## 6.3. File naming conventions

The naming convention described below is used by all the Data Transmission Tools and Services.

### 6.3.1. DATASET ID

Definition, "Dataset": the concept of one or several statistical tables (having one single data structure), with a specific periodicity and which must be transmitted within a certain period.

Identification rule:

DATASET ID = (DOMAIN ID) + "_" + (DATASET STRUCTURE ID) + "_" + (PERIODICITY or PERIODICITIES).

| Field: | Description/Remark: |
|---|---|
| DOMAIN ID: | Identifies the statistical domain (group of datasets closely linked together) |
| DATASET STRUCTURE ID: | Identifies the Dataset Structure (associated to one or several statistical tables). If no Dataset Structure ID is defined, the 'periodicity ID for data' will be used as default value. If 2 positions are used for the 'Periodicity or periodicities' field, then the Dataset structure ID should be in no more than 6 positions. |
| PERIODICITY or PERIODICITIES: | The first position, identifies the periodicity of the data being reported:<br>• "A" for annual<br>• "0" for multi-annual > 10 years |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • "1" for every 10 years<br>• "2" to "9" for every 2 to 9 years<br>• "S" for semester<br>• "Q" for quarterly<br>• "M" for monthly<br>• "W" for weekly<br>• "D" for daily<br>• "O" for other periodicity<br>• "N" for non-periodic (e.g. sequential) defined in EDAMIS up to version 3.2, to be discontinued<br>• "I" for irregular / aperiodic (e.g. sequential) defined for future use, not yet implemented (see also EDAMIS RFC504)<br>The second position identifies the periodicity of transmission. It is provided only if the periodicity for transmission is different from the periodicity of the data. This is called mixed periodicity. The second position uses the same code as the first position. |
| The following EDAMIS data flows are available for the transmission of electricity and gas prices: | |
| ENERGY_PRELH_S | For transmission of bi-annual electricity prices for household end-users: |
| ENERGY_PRELI_S | For transmission of bi-annual electricity prices for non-household end-users: |
| ENERGY_PRGAH_S | For transmission of bi-annual natural gas prices for household end-users: |
| ENERGY_PRGAI_S | For transmission of bi-annual natural gas prices for non-household end-users: |

### 6.3.2. DATASET OCCURRENCE ID

Definition, "Dataset occurrence": An occurrence of a dataset, for 1 sending country responsible (or 1 international organisation) and 1 primary receiving country (or 1 international organisation), for 1 period (or time series or sequence).

Identification rule:

DATASET OCCURRENCE ID = (DATASET ID) + "_" + (FROM) + "_" + (YEAR) + "_" + (PERIOD) + "_" + (FORMAT)

| Field: | Description/Remark: |
|---|---|
| DATASET ID: | DATASET is any of the datasets listed above. |
| FROM | The country code of the country to which the primary data providing organisation belongs. |
| YEAR | Format: YYYY, identifies the reporting year. For non-periodic datasets: "0000" or reporting year |
| PERIOD: | Identifies the reporting period for periodic datasets or the sequence number for non-periodic datasets. For electricity and gas prices the reporting period is "0001" or "0002". |
| FORMAT | For electricity and gas prices the extension should be xlsx. |

# 7 IRELAND

# Electricity price for the household sector

## 7.1. General description of the reporting authority responsible for the reporting of natural gas and energy price statistics in Ireland

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), formerly the Irish Energy Centre, was set up by the government in 2002 as Ireland's national energy authority.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has a mission to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. To fulfil this mission, the SEAI aims to provide well-timed and informed advice to the government and deliver a range of programmes efficiently and effectively, while engaging and motivating a wide range of stakeholders and showing continuous flexibility and innovation in all its activities.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is financed by Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programme co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.

The SEAI has a leading role in developing and maintaining comprehensive national and sectoral statistics for energy production, transformation and end use. This data is vital input for meeting international reporting obligations, for advising policy makers and informing investment decisions.

### Unit responsible for natural gas and electricity prices

Based in Cork, the Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit (EPSSU) is SEAI's specialist statistics team. Its core functions are to:

- Collect, process and publish energy statistics to support policy analysis and development in line with national needs and international obligations.
- Conduct statistical and economic analyses of energy service sectors and sustainable energy options.
- Contribute to the development and promulgation of appropriate sustainability indicators.

EPSSU only produces national energy statistics.

### Product covered

Electricity for the household sector

## 7.2. Data sources and quality assurance

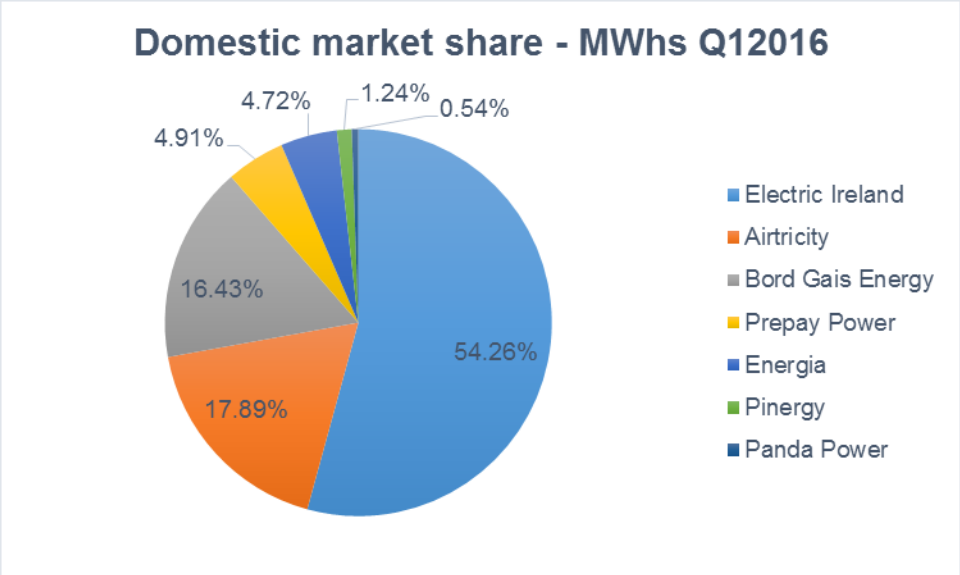
For households, electricity prices include all charges payable, including: energy consumed, network charges, other charges (capacity charges, commercialisation, meter rental, etc.), all netted for any rebates or premiums due. Initial connection charges are not included.

All licensed electricity suppliers are surveyed. Electricity prices are surveyed for the categories of household end-user, shown in the table below:

| Household end-user | Annual electricity consumption (KWh) | | Band share of residential electricity consumption in Ireland |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Lowest | Highest | |
| **Very small (DA)** | <1000 | | 1.80% |
| **Small (DB)** | 1000 | 2500 | 10.30% |
| **Medium (DC)** | 2500 | 5000 | 36.00% |
| **Large (DD)** | 5000 | 15000 | 44.20% |
| **Very large (DE)** | >15000 | | 7.60% |

### Survey coverage

Currently, there are seven active electricity suppliers on the domestic market, which are listed below (graph) along with their share of the market as in Q1 2016 Electricity and Gas Retail Markets Report of Ireland's Commission for Energy Regulation.




### Frequency of the survey

All domestic price data for Ireland is collected directly from energy suppliers on a bi-annual basis. The survey is managed by the EPSSU team. All data is collected on a confidential basis to reflect the

market-sensitive nature of the data. Electricity suppliers return their completed surveys by email to a member of the energy price statistics team.

## Quality Assurance

Checks are carried out on returns by suppliers on a number of levels. The variation in price and or volume since the previous semester is assessed and if there's a large variation the supplier is requested to confirm or amend. Checks are made on each price point, and volumes, between suppliers and again if there is a large variation in individual data items the supplier is reverted to.

Consistency between price levels is checked for each return. For instance, the difference between the level 2 and level 3 should be approximately equal to the VAT amount.

Some pre-checking is included in the spreadsheet questionnaire sent to the suppliers to ensure consistency between disaggregated prices and prices by level. Guidance is also included on the questionnaires to aid filling it in by the suppliers.

## Geographical coverage

All regions in Ireland are covered

## Completeness of the data reported

Ireland did not have confidentiality issues for categorising households into bands. However, the EPSSU is bound by the primary confidentiality rules of the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Where data is not already in the public domain, EPSSU cannot publish the data if there are less than three units in the category, if one unit accounts for more than 80% of the total market share, or if two units account for more than 90%.

## Method used to calculate the national average price

In Ireland a weighted average price is used and, as all suppliers are surveyed, this represents the full market. Market shares are based on the quantity of electricity invoiced by electricity supply undertakings to household end-users.

The weighted averages prices are calculated based on the market shares of suppliers in each band.

$$P = \sum_{i,j} p_{i,j} * W_{i,j}$$

where P is the average price, $p_{i,j}$ is the price of company j in band i and $W_{i,j}$ is the market share (weight) of company j and band i.

$$W_{i,j} = \frac{q_{i,j}}{\sum_{i,j} q_{i,j}}$$

, where $q_{i,j}$ is the quantity of company j in band i.

### Consumption pattern

Ireland can provide data about relative consumption in consumption bands.

## 7.3. Price levels

Three pricing levels are provided by each supplier to the EPSSU by filling in an Excel questionnaire:

- prices excluding taxes and levies;
- prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes;
- prices including all taxes, levies and VAT.

### Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges (level 1) - This price level only includes the energy & supply component and the network component

In Ireland, for household electricity, this price is currently calculated as the total price before VAT and the Public Service Obligation Levy.

### Prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (level 2) - This price level should include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered as non-recoverable for final non-household consumers. For household consumers, this price level includes the energy and network components, as well as taxes, fees, levies and charges, but excludes VAT

In Ireland, for household electricity, this price includes Level 1 and the Public Service Obligation Levy.

### Prices including all taxes (level 3) - This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT

In Ireland, for household electricity, this price includes Level 1, Public Service Obligation Levy and VAT at 13.5%.

## 7.4. Sub-components of taxes, fees, levies and charges

### Value added tax (VAT) as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax

In Ireland, 13.5% VAT is charged to households. No reduced rate is available to household consumers.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation

EPSSU will include the portion of the PSO levy that supports renewable energy generation schemes, known as the Alternative Energy Requirement (AER) and the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT).

Public Service Obligation (PSO): The PSO levy is a government initiative designed to support the electricity generation infrastructure, in order to meet national policy objectives regarding energy security, the use of indigenous fuels (i.e. peat) and the use of renewable energy sources in electricity generation.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to capacity payments, energy security and generation adequacy; taxes on coal industry restructuring; taxes on electricity distribution; stranded costs and levies on financing energy regulatory authorities or market and system operators (for electricity)

EPSSU considers that this includes the portion of the PSO levy that supports peat plants and security of supply.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes, to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emission taxes

Not applicable to household electricity.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the nuclear sector, including nuclear decommissioning, inspections and fees for nuclear installations

Not applicable to Ireland.

### All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five (gas: four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices)

The following charges will be included:

- Market Operator Charges (charged on a per MWh basis, on energy bought in the Single Electricity Market). The Single Electricity Market (SEM) is administered by the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO). The SEMO imposes a Market Operator charge to recover the costs of administering the SEM to all electricity users on a cent per kilowatt hour (c/kWh) basis. This tax is revised annually on 1st October.

- Better Energy Charges
- Fuel Poverty

Consequently, these charges are excluded from the level 1 prices and included in the level 2 prices and level 3 prices.

## 7.5. Other specific issues

### Recovery of taxes

Not applicable to household electricity.

### Return of refundable taxes

Not applicable to household electricity.

### Switching bonuses

These bonuses are applicable in Ireland, but there is not a defined way for taking those into account, as those bonuses are often impossible to quantify as they might be natural products (e.g. free goods, free theatre tickets etc.).

### Derogations

At the time of the interview, EPSSU stated that Ireland will most likely not apply for derogation

### Disaggregation of network prices

EPSSU will advise suppliers on the best way to do this during a workshop later in the year.

However, the EPSSU mentioned that data might be available from Ireland's Commission for Energy Regulation.

### Broker Commission

Brokers are becoming a bigger part of the Industrial & Commercial side of the business and they are also beginning to target smaller business customers. They can often ask for commission (c/kWh) to be added to the electricity/gas price.

Eurostat advises that this should not be included in electricity prices.

### Free Electricity Allowance

The Department of Social Protection has set the rate for the Free Electricity Allowance at €35.00 per month. This allowance will appear as a credit of €1.15* per day on Irish Electric electricity bills.

This package is available to everyone aged over 70 and to people aged under 70 in certain circumstances.

# 8 NORWAY

# Electricity price for the non-household sector

## 8.1. General description of the reporting authority responsible for the reporting of natural gas and electricity price statistics in Norway

Statistics Norway reports to the Ministry of Finance in accordance with the Statistics Act of 1989: This Act sets out the formal framework for all Norwegian official statistics and gives Statistics Norway the authority to determine the content of its own statistics and analyses. The Statistics Norway bureau has overall responsibility for producing and disseminating official statistics within Norwegian society.

The Statistics Act provides the professional autonomy necessary in order to maintain society's confidence in official statistics.

### Responsible unit for natural gas and electricity prices

Division for Energy and Environmental Statistics

### Product covered

Electricity for the non-household sector

## 8.2. Data sources and quality assurance

Data on electricity prices is collected from a sample of the electricity companies within the electricity supply system, which means a division 35.1 in the Norwegian Standard Industrial Classification. The survey is based on electronic questionnaires collected via National Collecting tool 'Altinn'. About 95 per cent of the responses are returned via 'Altinn'. Reminders are issued by an electronic pdf letter delivered to 'MY message' box in Altinn. The response rate is about 98 per cent.

To estimate the grid rent, data from the national regulator for the Norwegian electricity market (NVE) is used.

From the 1st quarter of 2012 onwards, the measuring period was increased from one week in the middle of each quarter to cover the whole quarter. Data published after the 1st quarter of 2012 is still

comparable with earlier quarters.

## Survey coverage

The statistics are compiled from information from a sample of about 45 electricity suppliers in the end-user market. The sample is constructed to cover as well as possible both large and small electricity plants, different geographical areas, and the different consumer groups to whom the electricity plants sell electricity.

The electric energy price survey covers about 85 per cent of the consumption of electricity in the non-household sector. Not all companies respond to the question about prices divided between consumer bands.

For grid rent the survey covers all the companies, but estimations are made to split the grid rent between different bands.

## Frequency of the survey

The electricity price survey is conducted on a quarterly basis.

## Quality assurance

Maximum and minimum values are controlled. Processing errors may occur during quality control activities. Misunderstandings of the variables and valuations by the units in the sample may lead to uncertainty in the figures obtained from the survey.

For instance, the prices are supposed to be reported without public taxes. If one company loses sight of this requirement, then the price reported can be too high. The prices are also to be reported inclusive of the fixed charges (standing charge). If one company overlooks this requirement, then the prices reported can be too low.

The figures are also compared with previous reported data for each of the electricity plants. Decimal- and thousand separators and denominations are checked thoroughly. The prices are compared with the spot prices of electricity at Nord Pool. The quantities reported are compared with those in the yearly electricity statistics and energy use in the manufacturing sector.

Missing questionnaires are not imputed. Quantities sold and average prices are collected for different types of contracts and consumer groups. Weighted average prices and measures of dispersion are constructed from this.

## Geographical coverage

All regions of the country are represented in the price data. Moreover, the grid rent covers all the regions.

## Coverage of the non-household sector

The electricity price data from Norway covers all non-household consumers, such as restaurants, offices, farming, transport etc.

## Completeness of the data reported

All prices can be reported without any confidentiality restrictions.

### Method used to calculate the national average price

Quantities sold and average prices are collected for different types of contracts and consumer groups. Weighted average prices and measures of dispersion are made from this.

The quarterly and bi-annual prices are calculated as weighted average prices by using the real consumption available for each consumer band.

The volumes are only calculated from a sample of the population and should not be used as an approximation for consumption in the whole population.

## 8.3. Price levels

### Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges (level 1) - This price level should include only the energy & supply component and the network component

The estimation of this price level is the sum of the electricity prices reported by the electricity companies and the grid rent received from the NVE and distributed by band based on the modelling approach. The grid rental price includes the power tariff that some consumers that is hourly metered pay.

### Prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (level 2) - This price level should include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered as non-recoverable for final non-household customers. For household customers this price level includes the energy and network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges but excludes VAT

Within this level there are two taxes on the consumption of electricity:

1. A mark up on the network price that is transferred to a fund for promotion of renewables and energy efficiency (“Enova tax”).
2. Tax on consumption of electricity: There are two levels levied for this tax: a normal tax, which is paid by all companies except manufacturing companies and a few other consumer groups that pays a reduced tax.

Norway will use a modelling approach to calculate the average of this tax. One solution is to divide the total consumption between the manufacturing consumers and non-manufacturing consumers and calculate the weights of these two components. The weights could then be applied to compile the average level of this tax on consumption of electricity.

### Prices including all taxes (level 3) - This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT

Level 3 prices are estimated as a sum of level 2 prices and VAT tax.

## 8.4. Sub-components of taxes, fees, levies and charges

### Value added tax (VAT) as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax

VAT is currently levied at 25% on all non-domestic consumers, without any exceptions.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation

A mark up on the network price ("Enova tax"), which is related to the promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, is included in this sub-component.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to capacity payments, energy security and generation adequacy; taxes on coal industry restructuring; taxes on electricity distribution. Stranded costs and levies on financing energy regulatory authorities or market and system operators

Not applicable.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes, to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emissions taxes

No such charges on the end use of electricity.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the nuclear sector, including nuclear decommissioning, inspections and fees for nuclear installations

Not applicable, there is no nuclear power in Norway.

### All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five (gas: four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices

In Norway most non-household customers pay tax on their consumption of electricity, which is included in this sub-component.

## 8.5. Other specific issues

### Recovery of taxes

All electricity consumers pay full 25% VAT, which is refunded subsequently.

### Return of refundable taxes

Refundable taxes are refunded after the end of the year. They are not deducted from bills directly.

### Switching bonuses

Some electricity enterprises might offer bonuses for new clients, and some products have a discount when switching to a different electricity enterprise. The scale of switching bonuses and discounts in Norway is currently unknown. Electricity enterprises are not supposed to include switching bonuses when they report the electricity price.

### End-users in largest consumption bands

Norway declared that most probably there will be no problem in reporting the data for the largest consumption bands.

### Derogations

At the time of the interview, the Statistics Norway representatives indicated that Norway will most likely not apply for derogation.

### Disaggregation of network prices

Still under discussion at the time of the interview.

# 9 NETHERLANDS

# Natural gas prices for the household sector

## 9.1. General description of the reporting authority responsible for reporting natural gas and electricity price statistics in the Netherlands

As of 3 January 2004, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has the status of an autonomous administrative body (in Dutch: ZBO). This means that the CBS performs public service tasks, but operates independently and not under the direct authority of a Dutch ministry. The Minister of Economic Affairs is politically responsible for relevant legislation, budget and conditions. The CBS is financed from the state budget.

The mission of the CBS is to publish reliable and coherent statistical information which responds to the needs of Dutch society. The responsibility of the CBS is twofold: firstly, to compile (official) national statistics and secondly to compile European (community) statistics.

### Unit responsible for natural gas and electricity prices

Business Statistics - Energy Statistics

### Product covered

Natural gas for the household sector

## 9.2. Data sources and quality assurance

There are two main types of companies which are involved in supplying natural gas to household consumers in the Netherlands: gas suppliers and network companies. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) contacts gas suppliers on a quarterly basis to get the price and volume for each consumption band. In the case of gas suppliers, the price is determined by a free supply-and-demand market.

The consumer is free to choose the gas supplier in the region but not the network company, which has something of a monopoly in the regional market. Therefore the network price is set by the Dutch Energy Regulator and this regulated price is the maximum price that the network companies can charge their consumers in the region. The maximum price set by the regulator depends on the maximum capacity.

An average household usually has a type G4 or G6 meter. The gas meter determines the flow and measures the consumption of gas in the house. The maximum capacity of these meters is 10 cubic meters per hour. For households this is more than adequate.

These tariffs are updated on a yearly basis and are published on the network company's website. The CBS retrieves the network prices for households directly from the company's website.

## Survey coverage

There are around 50 gas suppliers on the Dutch gas market. Of these companies, the three biggest companies, which have a significant market share, are surveyed as well as some smaller gas suppliers. The market share of these three big companies is just short of 70% of total sales in the consumer's gas market. The three big gas suppliers are independent companies, after breaking away from the three big network companies.

Regarding network prices, the tariffs are retrieved from company websites. The coverage is about 90% of the gas market.

## Frequency of the survey

The gas supply price survey is conducted on a quarterly basis. Energy suppliers return a completed questionnaire, which includes questions related to the various components in each band: number of consumers and/or connections, fixed costs, consumption in cubic metres, cost of purchase and cost of delivery.

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Jaarverbruik aardgas in m3 (N;35,17) | | |
| | | Prijselementen (Bedragen excl. BTW) | Komt overeen met | < 569 m3 | 569 - < 5.687 m3 | ≥ 5.687 m3 |
| | | | Eurostatklasse | < 20 GJ | 20 - < 200 GJ | ≥ 200 GJ |
| Gas | | ***Levering van aardgas*** | | | | |
| | 1 | Aantal klanten | # | | | |
| | 2 | Aantal aansluitingen | # | | | |
| | 3 | Vastrecht | € | | | |
| | 4 | Levering: hoeveelheid | m3 (N;35,17) | | | |
| | 5 | Levering: bedrag | € | | | |
| | 6 | Landelijk transport: bedrag | € | | | |
| | 7 | Regionale toeslag | € | | | |

## Quality assurance

The plausibility of the input is measured in the following ways:

- prices from the correspondents are compared to their Y-1 prices;
- prices are compared to the prices from other correspondents in the same band;
- prices from different bands are compared with each other, to see if there is a pattern;
- average volumes are checked to see if data is placed in the right consumption band;
- prices for the energy source itself are compared to current prices on the traders' markets and to the development of relevant producer price indices.

An imputation method is developed whereby a consumption band with no response can still provide a price. For this, the last known price for the same period of the previous year is updated using the year-to-year trend in prices from the left nearest category.

## Geographical coverage

Data is collected across the whole of the Netherlands.

## Completeness of the data reported

The CBS mentioned two potential limitations related to the band I6 (>4000000 GJ), for the non-household sector, which may result in information for this particular band not being reported. The first issue is related to the confidentiality of data, the second is related to the difficulty of obtaining reliable information for consumers who are included in this consumption band. These large consumers might have a direct gas line, and therefore network prices might be difficult to obtain.

## Method used to calculate the national average price

The CBS should be considered as a particular case, as the network prices are calculated by using a modelling approach, presented below.

The gas network price for households is comprised of various components, which are all fixed costs per year. Some are independent administrative costs; others are dependent on the capacity of the connection. For gas connections for household consumers, small connections (corresponding to the type G4/G6 meter) have varying tariffs based on presumed annual consumption. These tariffs are published by the regional network companies at the beginning of each year.

The regional network companies also provide their microdata for households in the form of open data. This data is made anonymous and information is given by postal code. The most common connection is specified, together with the presumed average annual consumption (SJV). This information can be used to allocate the end-users to bands and to determine average annual consumption per bandwidth.

With the costs and the consumption made available per band, an annual network price is calculated. The annual price is then edited with a seasonal pattern, to calculate quarterly (and bi-annual) prices. This seasonal pattern is derived from the input of gas suppliers.

The actions above are done for all three big regional network companies in the Netherlands, covering >90% of the market.

Gas supply companies surveyed are asked to report volumes and values of sales in each of the consumption bands specified. They are asked to report the value excluding all taxes. CBS then calculates the taxes based on the volumes.

## Consumption pattern

The CBS provides data about relative consumption and prices for each consumption band. It agrees to publish the relative consumption volumes.

## 9.3. Price levels

Three pricing levels are compiled by the CBS:

- prices excluding taxes and levies;
- prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes;
- prices including all taxes, levies and VAT.

### Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges (level 1) - This price level should include only the energy & supply component and the network component

This price level includes only the energy & supply and network prices.

### Prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (level 2) - This price level should include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered as non-recoverable for final non-household consumers For household consumers this price level includes energy and network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges, but excludes VAT

The following non-recoverable taxes are added to the level 1 price: EB (energy efficiency tax) and ODE (durable energy promotion tax).

### Prices including all taxes (level 3) - This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT

VAT (21%) is added to the level 2 price.

## 9.4. Sub-components of taxes, fees, levies and charges

### Value added tax (VAT) as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax

VAT is currently levied at 21% on all domestic consumers, without any exemptions.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation

For the non-household sector, there are two types of taxes, fees, levies and charges which are considered in the Netherlands:

- Energy tax (Energie Belasting – EB) aimed at increasing energy efficiency, and of which tariffs are set annually by the government;

- ODE (Opslag Duurzame Energie) levy, which is a tax, aiming for the promotion of sustainable energy sources. Furthermore, the ODE tariff is set annually by the government and is a regressive tax scheme. This money goes towards big projects and not to individual houses.

The data for EB and ODE is retrieved from the government website

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes, to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emissions taxes

Not applicable

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the nuclear sector, including nuclear decommissioning, inspections and fees for nuclear installations. All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five (gas: four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices)

Not applicable

## 9.5. Other specific issues

### Recovery of taxes

Not applicable in the case of households.

### Return of refundable taxes

Not applicable in the case of households.

### Switching bonuses

The bonuses are applicable, but they are not taken into account in the CBS estimation for energy prices.

Fines that have to be paid by the household when they terminate a contract before the final deadline are excluded. This is supported by the new supplier.

### Unit price (natural gas only) - Gas prices are to be reported in the national currency per Gigajoule (Gross Calorific Value)

The data supplied is sent by the enterprises to the CBS in cubic metres (m3). The CBS uses a conversion factor of 1m3 = 35.17GJ.

## End-users in largest consumption bands

Not applicable for households.

## Derogations

At the time of the interview, CBS representatives indicated that the Netherlands will most likely not apply for derogation.

## Disaggregation of network prices

Under discussion. The CBS is considering whether this data will be provided to them by the national regulator.

# 10 UNITED KINGDOM

# Natural gas prices for the household sector

## 10.1. General description of the reporting authority responsible for the reporting of natural gas and electricity price statistics in the United Kingdom

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was created on 14th July 2016 from a merger between the Department for Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The newly formed Department has responsibility for the production and supply of UK Government energy statistics.

### Unit responsible for natural gas and electricity prices

Energy Balances, Prices and Publications is responsible for:

1. collecting data on both non-household and household energy prices, including petrol and diesel prices
2. publishing monthly and quarterly tables
3. producing a quarterly publication around all energy prices with graphs and commentary regarding changes in these statistics

### Product covered

Natural gas for the household sector

## 10.2. Data sources and quality assurance

All domestic price data for the UK is collected directly from energy suppliers on a quarterly basis. There are two main surveys used to collect data: the Domestic Fuel Inquiry (DFI) survey and the Price Transparency (PT) survey. Both surveys are managed by BEIS statisticians. All data is collected on a confidential basis to reflect the market-sensitive nature of the data. Energy suppliers return their completed surveys to a named member of the energy price statistics team either directly by e-mail or more normally via the Department's secure data portal.

The PT survey is used to collect data directly from energy suppliers relating to their total volume and

value by consumption band. This data is used to infer average prices for gas and electricity in the UK, split by standardised annual consumption size bands set by (Commission) Eurostat.

The DFI survey collects details of customer numbers by region, by payment method and by tariff, but does not collect data on volumes consumed. This survey is used to provide detailed market information, and to produce energy bills based on typical and average consumption levels.

The PT survey is used to collect domestic energy pricing information for different consumption levels, and as such differs from the DFI survey which does not collect pricing information based on consumption.

## Survey coverage

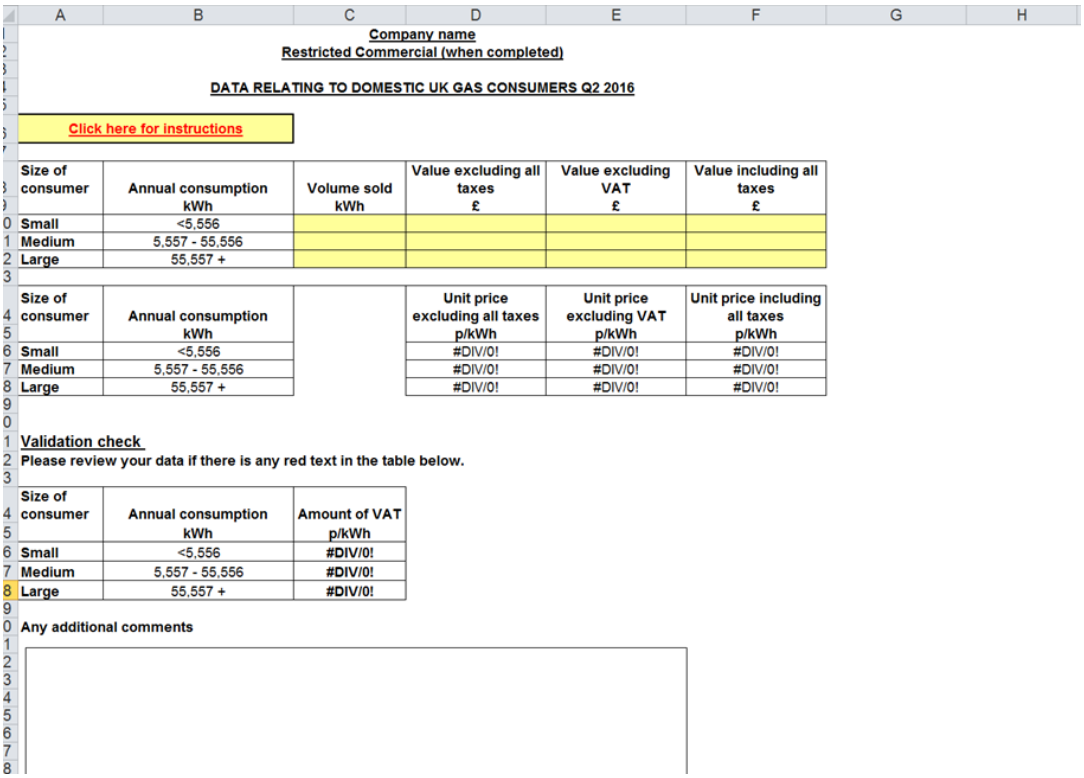
The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets report on Retail Energy Markets in 2016[1] specified that, as of March 2016, there were 43 active licensed suppliers in the domestic retail markets, in most cases offering both gas and electricity. 86% of these are considered to be smaller suppliers and 6 of them, known as the "big 6", are large suppliers. The OFGEM website showed that 36 enterprises supply both gas and electricity price data, 5 supply only gas and 2 supply only electricity.

The PT survey is sent to six domestic gas suppliers: "the big 6" (British Gas, EDF, E.on, Npower, SSE, and Scottish Power). These six domestic gas suppliers cover over 85% of the domestic natural gas market. However, one company has difficulty in producing the required data and their estimates are not robust enough for the Department and are therefore excluded. After the exclusion of this company, the final data is based on over 75% of the domestic market. The Department is working with this supplier to improve the data quality so that their data can be included.

## Frequency of the survey

The Price Transparency survey is sent out to energy suppliers on a quarterly basis. Energy suppliers return their completed PT forms which include, for both gas and electricity, their total revenue and volume consumed during the quarter by size band of consumers.

[1] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/system/files/docs/2016/08/retail_energy_markets_in_2016.pdf



Company name
Restricted Commercial (when completed)

DATA RELATING TO DOMESTIC UK GAS CONSUMERS Q2 2016

Click here for instructions

| Size of consumer | Annual consumption kWh | Volume sold kWh | Value excluding all taxes £ | Value excluding VAT £ | Value including all taxes £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Small | <5,556 | | | | |
| Medium | 5,557 - 55,556 | | | | |
| Large | 55,557 + | | | | |

| Size of consumer | Annual consumption kWh | Unit price excluding all taxes p/kWh | Unit price excluding VAT p/kWh | Unit price including all taxes p/kWh |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Small | <5,556 | #DIV/0! | #DIV/0! | #DIV/0! |
| Medium | 5,557 - 55,556 | #DIV/0! | #DIV/0! | #DIV/0! |
| Large | 55,557 + | #DIV/0! | #DIV/0! | #DIV/0! |

Validation check
Please review your data if there is any red text in the table below.

| Size of consumer | Annual consumption kWh | Amount of VAT p/kWh |
|---|---|---|
| Small | <5,556 | #DIV/0! |
| Medium | 5,557 - 55,556 | #DIV/0! |
| Large | 55,557 + | #DIV/0! |

Any additional comments

## Quality assurance

The initial checking of the volume sold, the values before and after taxes, the unit prices and VAT is carried out after the data is supplied by the companies. Volume checks verify whether the data received shows that most costumers are in the medium or large brackets. The value excluding taxes should be less than the value including taxes. The unit prices, derived as ratio of total value and total volume per each consumption band, are checked using the min-max approach a threshold of 3 and 8 pence per unit is applied. The VAT rate estimated from the data supplied should be 5% (the currently applicable rate in the UK[2]).

Data received from suppliers are put into a spreadsheet and compared for consistency against returns from the 4 previous quarters. The spreadsheet produces comparisons by looking at the change in volumes, the change in values, and the change in price, for each size band and company.

Once returns have been checked against previous quarters' returns, the data from each company on prices, market share and volume is compared to other data sources:

- the average prices between quarters are compared to movements seen in the Consumer Price Index for electricity and gas, and against known price changes published by individual firms,
- the market share of each company is calculated and compared to market shares derived from DFI data, and the volume data is compared to domestic electricity and gas consumption data collected by other teams within the department.

Results of comparisons should be consistent and any anomalous results are discussed with energy suppliers.

[2] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rates-of-vat-on-different-goods-and-services

## Geographical coverage

Data is generally collected across the UK (England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), although gas is not widely available in Northern Ireland (NI). Therefore, at national level, the gas-specific publication only uses GB statistics (England and Wales, and Scotland). Different suppliers operate in the NI market to the GB market. The NI market represents around 1 per cent of UK domestic gas consumption, with around 200,0003 customers compared to around 22 million in the rest of the UK. The other domestic BEIS price returns for domestic electricity is based on UK data

## Completeness of the data reported

The prices for all consumer bands are reported. In the UK, 95% of domestic gas is within the middle size band (between 20 and 200 GJ/y).

## Method used to calculate the national average price

Gas supplier companies surveyed are asked to report volumes and values of sales in each of the consumption bands specified. Value excluding all taxes, value excluding VAT, and value including all taxes are reported.

Average prices are calculated by summing up the volumes and values in each price band and using the amalgamated volume and value data to calculate prices for each size band excluding all taxes, excluding VAT, and including all taxes.

The survey is conducted quarterly, with the data reported for quarters 1 and 2 aggregated to produce the S1 return, and the data for quarters 3 and 4 aggregated to produce the S2 return.

As the price data is calculated using a volume component, weighting is not required.

## Consumption pattern

The UK provides data regarding the relative consumption pattern price levels.

Three pricing levels are provided by each supplier to BEIS by filling in an Excel questionnaire:

1. prices excluding taxes and levies;
2. prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes;
3. prices including all taxes, levies and VAT.

## Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges (level 1) - This price level should only include the energy & supply component and the network component

OFGEM presents the component of the gas consumer's bill as follows:

- Wholesale costs are how much the supplier has to pay to purchase the gas and electricity to supply the consumer with energy. It may buy energy via an exchange, or have a contract with a gas producer. This component makes up the biggest part of gas bill, about 46.5% in 2015;

[3] https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/ATR%202015_0.pdf

- Network and balancing costs relate to the pipes that carry energy through the network and across the country into the consumer's home. This cost constitutes the second largest portion of the gas bill, about 22.9%.
- Operating costs, which include the costs faced by the supplier from running their own business (such as costs relating to sales, metering and billing). This cost is about 16.2% of the total gas bill.
- Other direct costs include costs relating to market participation. This is about 0.6% of the gas bill;
- Profit, which is the supplier tax margin, represents 6.9% of the gas bill.

The sum of all these components gives a total of 93% of the bill.

## 10.3. Price levels

### Prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (level 2) - This price level should include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered non-recoverable for final non-household customers. For household customers this price level includes the energy and network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges but excludes VAT

The level 2 price is the same as level 1 prices plus the cost of government obligation related to government programmes to save energy, reduce emissions and encourage take-up of renewable energy. This cost, known as the 'environmental and social obligation price', makes up 2% of the gas bill and is included in this price level.

### Prices including all taxes (level 3) - This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT

The level 3 is equal to level 2 prices plus VAT, charged at 5%, that is paid on households' energy bills.

## 10.4. Sub-components of the taxes, fees, levies and charges.

### Value added tax (VAT) as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax

VAT is currently levied at 5% on all domestic gas supplies, without any exemptions.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation

Energy company obligation (ECO) is a scheme to ensure energy companies help install energy-efficiency measures. https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/eco
This cost is classified under the 'environmental and social obligation costs', which make up around 2% of a gas bill. The 'environmental and social obligation costs' also include direct costs to suppliers of government programs to save energy, reduce emissions and encourage take-up of renewable

energy. https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/domestic-consumers/understanding-energy-billsfuels

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emission taxes

The Climate Change Levy (CCL) is charged only to industrial customers, thus it is not relevant for household consumers.

### All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five (gas: four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices.

Not applicable

## 10.5. Other specific issues

### Recovery of taxes

Not applicable in the UK

### Return of refundable taxes

Not applicable in the UK

### Switching bonuses

Switching bonuses are offered in the UK, either offered from price comparison websites or offered from electricity/gas enterprises by means of e.g. vouchers, event ticket offers or entertainment services. These are not taken into account in the calculation of average prices. The proportion of all domestic customers that switch suppliers each year is relatively high (at around 12% annually – this may though include some households that switch multiple times within a year).

Exit penalties are not included in the calculation of the final prices. Those penalties are a common issue; 38% of tariffs on switching sites in the London region had exit fees, typically of £30.

### Unit price (natural gas only) - Gas prices are to be reported in national currency per Gigajoule (Gross Calorific Value)

The data supplied is sent in kWh. However, the option for firms to use gigajoules is available if they wish to do so. The conversion factor used is 5,557kWh = 20GJ.

## Derogations

At the time of the interview, the BEIS representatives indicated that the UK will most likely not apply for derogation

## Disaggregation of network prices

This data will be provided to BEIS by the national regulator.

# 11 AUSTRIA

# Natural gas prices for the non-household sector

## 11.1. General description of the reporting authority responsible for the reporting of natural gas and electricity price statistics in Austria

Since 2012, data for natural gas and electricity prices for the industrial sector is collected and calculated by Statistics Austria.

At the beginning of 2000, the former Austrian Central Statistical Office was separated from Government Services by a new Federal Statistics Act. The Federal Statistics Act of 2000 defines federal statistics as a (non-personal) information system of the government providing data on the economic, demographic, social, ecological and cultural situation in Austria.

### Unit responsible for natural gas and electricity prices

Directorate Spatial Statistics - Environmental and Energy Statistics

### Product covered

Natural gas for the non-household sector

## 11.2. Data sources and quality assurance

Energy data is collected, in the case of Statistics Austria, from gas supplying companies and grid operators. The survey is conducted bi-annually starting with second semester of 2012, based on the following legislation: The price transparency act, “Preistransparenzgesetz”, BGBl. I Nr. 107/2011 and the price transparency regulation gas and electricity, „Preistransparenzverordnung – Gas und Strom 2012“, BGBl. II Nr. 140/2012. Moreover, Statistics Austria is contracted with the survey by the Association of Gas- and District Heating Supply Companies.

For conducting the survey on gas prices charged to industrial end-users the “Austrian Association of Gas and District Heating Supply Companies” (FGW) provided a list of their member undertakings for this survey. It was considered to reach the targeted representative volume with contacting these member undertakings. The agreement between Statistics Austria and the Association foresees the possibility of contacting all suppliers/grid operators on list of members but there exists an agreement that small suppliers/grid operators with mostly household costumers are not reminded to report data if

they don´t answer in the first round.

Energy suppliers were asked to report for each consumption band

1. the revenue related to “energy and supply”: excluding taxes and levies; excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes; including all taxes, levies and VAT as well as the corresponding volume of natural gas sold;

Grid operators were asked to report for each consumption band

2. the revenue related to “operating the grid”: excluding taxes and levies; excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes; including all taxes, levies and VAT as well as the corresponding volume of natural gas transported

## Survey coverage

Statistics Austria provides electronic questionnaires for gas suppliers and gas grid operators. Once completed, the questionnaires are returned electronically by eQuest. The survey included all 62 gas suppliers and gas grid operators that supply gas to industrial end-users through the “Austrian Association of Gas and District Heating Supply Companies”. Natural gas used by industrial consumers for electricity generation in power plants or in CHP plants and for non-energy uses (e.g. in the chemical industry) was not considered:

- 41 gas suppliers: out of 41 suppliers, 34 are relevant and report regularly, 7 submitted statements with a zero amount.
- 21 grid operators: nearly all operators report; only one local grid operator is missing.

The coverage of the survey is compiled by taking into account the data received from three different sources: grid operators, gas suppliers and the value of energy balances.

- For grid operators the coverage is 90.1% and is calculated based on consumption values coming from the grid operator values and energy balances for the year 2014
- The share of quantities supplied by gas suppliers compared to grid operators, is calculated as an average for the period 2nd semester 2012 until 1st semester 2016. As presented in the table below the coverage is about 80.9%, on average. Please note that in table 1 data for 2012 and 2016 only refer to half a year.

| In GJ | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total network operators | 57130767.5 | 137757191.9 | 124405709.4 | 131287477.5 | 65951051.0 | 103306439.5 |
| Total gas suppliers | 39595460.0 | 112563163.9 | 105743254.4 | 102641774.7 | 57367235.82 | 83582177.76 |
| Share of gas suppliers in grid operators | 69.3% | 81.7% | 85.0% | 78.2% | 87.0% | 80.9% |

*Coverage of the survey*

The most important reason for these differences is the different understanding of “customers”.

Suppliers report the number of customers with respect to billing addresses, grid operators report metering points. Differences in the definition of customers between suppliers and grid operators led to the fact that the quantities in GJ and the number of customers per band are different for suppliers and operators. A typical example are “chain customers“. Chain customers are customers that have different locations in potentially different regions that are not reported in the same bands by grid operators and gas suppliers. Therefore, quantities reported by gas suppliers and grid operators can´t be a perfect match.

## Frequency of the survey

Data is collected twice per year, at the beginning of each six-month period (January and July) and refers to the total amount of gas and the corresponding revenue per band. Average prices paid by industrial end-users for gas over the previous six months are calculated with the reported data.

## Quality assurance

Data validation consists of the following steps:

1. Check coverage: Missing values
2. Time series analysis: Check time series of quantities, revenues and prices on the respondent level.
3. Comparison with other data sources: Use info from Energy balances and Material input statistics.

In the case of missing or implausible data, Statistics Austria contacts the companies that have to report the information. During these discussions, companies mentioned the following difficulties they encountered when filling in the questionnaire:

1. Gas suppliers/grid operators calculate in kWh not GJ: potential mistakes and confusion regarding definition of bands
2. In small bands: distinction between households and small businesses difficult (same grid tariffs)

These issues are resolved by Statistics Austria case by case.

## Geographical coverage

Data is collected across the whole of the Austrian territory.

## Completeness of the data reported

The prices for all consumer bands are reported, except those related to band I6 (>4000000 GJ). Statistics Austria mentioned the issue of confidentiality in the case of band I6 (>4000000 GJ) for the non-household sector.

## Method used to calculate the national average price

Prices are calculated as weighted average prices by using the market shares (by volume in GJ) of the energy suppliers and net operators of gas as weighting factors.

The price per consumption band is a sum of the weighted average prices, calculated separately for ‘energy and supply’ and ‘network’ components. The weighted average prices for each component, ‘energy and supply’ and ‘network’, are computed as a ratio of total revenue, the sum of the revenues provided by the gas suppliers and by network operators respectively, and the total quantity expressed

in GJ, the sum of the quantity provided by the gas suppliers and by network operators respectively per consumption band.

$P_i = \frac{1}{Q_i} \sum_{i,j} q_{ij} * p_{ij}$, where

$P_i$ : Price per band i (€)

$q_{ij}$ : gas quantity per company j and band i (GJ)

$p_{ij}$ : gas price/grid revenue per company j and band i (€/GJ)

$Q_i$ : Total gas quantity per band i (GJ)

### Consumption pattern

Statistics Austria provides the relative consumption and prices for each consumption bands, with the exception of band I6.

## 11.3. Price levels

Three pricing levels are provided by each supplier and grid operator to Statistics Austria:

1. prices excluding taxes and levies;
2. prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes;
3. prices including all taxes, levies and VAT.

### Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges (level 1) - This price level should include only the energy & supply component and the network component

Statistics Austria excludes all taxes in the case of level 1 price. The price component of this level is included: Energy price excluding all taxes and levies for each consumer band as a volume-weighted average of all gas suppliers and the grid fee excluding all taxes and levies for each consumer band as a volume-weighted average of all gas grid operators.

### Prices excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (level 2) - This price level should include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered as non-recoverable for final non-household customers. For household customers this price level includes the energy and network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges but excludes VAT.

This level includes the price excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (do not exist at the moment) for each consumer band of gas-supplying companies and the price excluding VAT and other recoverable taxes (do not exist at the moment) for each consumer band of gas grid operators.

The gas tax is recoverable for natural gas quantities used for electricity generation and non-energy purposes that are excluded from this survey. Therefore, natural gas fee is completely attributed to non-

recoverable taxes in this reporting scheme. It has to be paid in any case and is refunded on request by the tax authority up to 5 years after its payment.

### Prices including all taxes (level 3) - This price level includes the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT.

The level 3 price includes price including all taxes for each consumer band of gas-supplying companies and price including all taxes for each consumer band of gas grid operators.

## 11.4. Sub-components of the taxes, fees, levies and charges

### Value added tax (VAT) as defined by Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax

VAT is currently levied at 20% on all companies, without any exemptions, but is refundable afterwards.

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation

Not applicable

### Taxes, fees, levies or charges related to air quality and environmental purposes, to CO2 or other greenhouse gas emissions taxes

Not applicable

### All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five (gas: four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices.

A community levy (“use charge”) is charged by some local authorities for the use of public land, e.g. for gas pipelines. The rates are set by provincial (Bundeslaender) legislation, and are a maximum of 6% of the revenue generated by liable companies through the use of gas pipelines on public land.

However, some provincial legislation also includes regulations under which the level of the community levy is assessed according to the amount of public land utilised (e.g. €/metre of pipeline).”

Gas levy: like oil, LP gas and electricity, natural gas is subject to a separate tax. Introduced on 1 January 2004, the natural gas levy in Austria is 6.60 cent per normal cubic metre.

## 11.5. Other specific issues

### Recovery of taxes

The gas tax is recoverable for natural gas quantities used for electricity generation and non-energy purposes that are excluded from this survey. Therefore natural gas fee is completely attributed to non-recoverable taxes in this reporting scheme. It has to be paid in any case and is refunded on request by the tax authority up to 5 years after its payment.

### Return of refundable taxes

Non-household consumers first have to pay VAT and settle it afterwards. The gas tax is recoverable for natural gas quantities used for electricity generation and non-energy purposes that are excluded from this survey. Therefore natural gas fee is completely attributed to non-recoverable taxes in this reporting scheme. It has to be paid in any case and is refunded on request by the tax authority up to 5 years after its payment.

### Switching bonuses

The source data that is used to calculate the price is based partly on the data of revenues of the electricity and gas companies. These revenues might include or exclude bonuses. Financial bonuses are always included in Austria. Bonuses in the form of goods are excluded.

In the case of a contract for a fixed period, the consumer has to remain under contract. The only way to get out of the contract is when the supplier changes the tariff.

### Unit price (natural gas only) - Gas prices are to be reported in national currency per Gigajoule (Gross Calorific Value).

The data supplied are sent in GJ

### End-users in largest consumption bands

There are confidentiality issues in the largest consumption band

### Derogations

At the time of the interview, Statistics Austria representatives indicated that Austria will most likely not apply for derogation.

### Disaggregation of network prices

The calculation of the disaggregated distribution and transmission (network) costs will be based on estimations.

# Annex 1 — Regulation (EU) 2016/1952

17.11.2016 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 311/1

I

*(Legislative acts)*

# REGULATIONS

## REGULATION (EU) 2016/1952 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 October 2016 on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC

**(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 338(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure [1],

Whereas:

(1) Competitiveness, sustainability and energy security are the overarching goals of a resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy.

(2) High-quality, comparable, up-to-date, reliable and harmonised data on natural gas and electricity prices charged to final customers are needed in order to draft energy union policy and monitor the Member States' energy markets.

(3) This Regulation aims to provide for a common framework for European statistics to underpin energy policies in particular towards the creation of a fully integrated internal energy market for customers. Greater transparency on energy costs and prices, as well as on the level of public support, should be made available to improve market integration. This Regulation does not entail any harmonisation of the structure of prices or charges across Member States.

(4) To date, Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council [2] has provided a common framework for producing, transmitting and disseminating comparable statistics on the natural gas and electricity prices charged to industrial customers in the Union.

(5) The collection of data on natural gas and electricity prices charged to final customers in the household sector has so far been carried out on the basis of a voluntary agreement.

(6) The growing complexity of the internal energy market makes it increasingly difficult to obtain reliable and up-to-date price data on natural gas and electricity in the absence of legally binding obligations to provide such data, in particular on the household sector.

[1] Position of the European Parliament of 13 September 2016 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and decision of the Council of 13 October 2016.

[2] Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users (OJ L 298, 7.11.2008, p. 9).

(7) In order to guarantee the reporting of high-quality price data for the household sector and for the non-household sector, the collection of both types of data should be covered by a legislative act.

(8) In most Member States, data on transmission systems are available from energy regulators. However, a much larger number of data compilers are involved in distribution costs and the reporting of data is considered to be more difficult in some Member States. Given the significance of distribution costs and the need for transparency on this matter, the collection of data on natural gas and electricity prices should follow the established practices within the European Statistical System.

(9) The system of consumption bands used by the Commission (Eurostat) in its price publications should ensure transparency of the market and broad dissemination of non-confidential price data, and should enable the calculation of European aggregates.

(10) Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1] is the reference framework for European statistics. That Regulation provides for statistics to be collected in accordance with the principles of impartiality, transparency, reliability, objectivity, professional independence and cost-effectiveness, while protecting statistical confidentiality.

(11) Member States should compile the data on natural gas and electricity prices by using the most appropriate sources and methods to provide the required information.

(12) Data on prices charged to final customers of natural gas and electricity should enable comparisons with the prices of other energy commodities.

(13) Information on the collection of data on prices and on the quality of data should be provided as part of standard reporting procedure.

(14) Detailed data on the breakdown of consumption bands and their respective market shares are an essential part of natural gas and electricity price statistics.

(15) Price analysis can be carried out only if high-quality official statistics are available from Member States regarding the different components and sub-components of natural gas and electricity prices. A revised methodology for generating a detailed breakdown of the various components and sub-components of the prices of natural gas and electricity charged to final customers will make it possible to analyse the impact of different aspects on the final prices.

(16) The data provided to the Commission (Eurostat) on prices and conditions of sale to final customers, and the breakdown of the number of final customers by consumption in each consumption band, should contain all the information necessary to enable the Commission to decide on appropriate measures or proposals in relation to energy policy.

(17) A good understanding of the taxes, fees, levies and charges in each Member State is essential for ensuring price transparency. The importance of a breakdown of the data on network costs, taxes, fees, levies and charges has been identified.

(18) Member States in which there is low consumption of natural gas as a proportion of the final energy consumption of households should be exempt from the obligation to provide data on natural gas prices for final household customers.

[1] Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

(19) To improve data reliability, the Commission (Eurostat), together with the Member States, should assess and, if required, improve the methodology for collecting and processing data in a precise manner, in accordance with the governance framework for statistics. Therefore, quality reports should be prepared regularly and assessments of the quality of price data should be carried out regularly.

(20) Based on a reasoned request from a Member State, the Commission should be entitled to grant derogations to that Member State in relation to specific obligations for which the application of this Regulation to the national statistical system of that Member State requires major adaptations or is likely to lead to a significant additional burden on respondents.

(21) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission as regards the format of and arrangements for the transmission of data, technical quality assurance requirements regarding the content of standard quality reports, and the granting of derogations. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1].

(22) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely the establishment of a common legal framework for the systematic production of European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of its scale and effects, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve that objective.

(23) Directive 2008/92/EC should therefore be repealed.

(24) The European Statistical System Committee has been consulted,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

**Subject matter**

This Regulation establishes a common framework for the development, production and dissemination of comparable European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices for household and final non-household customers in the Union.

*Article 2*

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

(1) 'autoproducers', 'final energy consumption' and 'household' have the same meaning as that attributed to those terms in Annex A to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council [2];

(2) 'transmission', 'distribution', 'customer', 'final customer', 'household customer', 'non-household customer' and 'supply' have the same meaning as that attributed to those terms in Article 2 of Directive 2009/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council [3], when used in relation to electricity;

(3) 'transmission', 'distribution', 'supply', 'customer', 'household customer', 'non-household customer' and 'final customer' have the same meaning as that attributed to those terms in Article 2 of Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council [4], when used in relation to natural gas;

[1] Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).
[2] Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 on energy statistics (OJ L 304, 14.11.2008, p. 1).
[3] Directive 2009/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 2003/54/EC (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 55).
[4] Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 94).

(4) 'network component' means the combination of transmission and distribution network costs as set out in point 6 of Annex I and in point 5 of Annex II.

*Article 3*

**Data sources**

Member States shall compile data on natural gas and electricity prices, and their components and sub-components concerning network costs, taxes, fees, levies and charges, and on consumption volumes, in accordance with Annexes I and II. One or more of the following sources shall be used, after taking into account the principles of reducing burden on respondents and of administrative simplification:

(a) statistical surveys;

(b) administrative sources;

(c) other sources applying statistical estimation methods.

*Article 4*

**Coverage**

1. Member States shall ensure that the data collection and compilation in accordance with Annexes I and II provide comprehensible and comparable high-quality data that are representative of their respective natural gas and electricity prices and consumption.

2. Member States shall not be obliged to transmit data on natural gas prices for household customers if the consumption of natural gas in the household sector accounts for less than 1,5 % of national final energy consumption in the household sector.

3. At least every three years, the Commission (Eurostat) shall review which Member States are not obliged to transmit data pursuant to paragraph 2.

*Article 5*

**Data transmission**

1. Member States shall provide to the Commission (Eurostat) the data as set out in Annexes I and II.

2. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts establishing the format and arrangements for the transmission of the data as set out in Annexes I and II. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 10(2).

3. Member States shall provide statistics to the Commission (Eurostat) within three months of the end of the relevant reference period.

*Article 6*

**Reference periods and transmission frequency**

1. The reference periods for the data specified in Annexes I and II shall be annual (January to December) or biannual (January to June and July to December). The first reference periods shall start in 2017.

2. The transmission frequency shall be:

(a) annual (for the period from January to December) for data referred to in points 6(a) and 7 of Annex I and points 5(a) and 6 of Annex II;

(b) biannual (for the periods from January to June and from July to December) for data referred to in point 6(b) of Annex I and point 5(b) of Annex II.

*Article 7*

**Quality assurance**

1. Member States shall ensure the quality of the data provided in accordance with this Regulation. To that end, the standard quality criteria laid down in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 apply.

2. Member States shall inform the Commission (Eurostat), without delay, of any methodological or other changes that might have a significant impact on natural gas and electricity price statistics, and in any event no later than one month after that change occurs.

3. Every three years, Member States shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with a standard quality report on the data in accordance with the quality criteria laid down in Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. Those reports shall include information on the scope and collection of the data, the calculation criteria, the methodology and data sources used, and any changes thereto.

4. The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data provided and shall use that assessment and an analysis of the quality reports referred to in paragraph 3 in order to prepare and publish a report on the quality of European statistics covered by this Regulation.

5. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts establishing technical quality assurance requirements regarding the content of the quality reports referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 10(2).

*Article 8*

**Dissemination**

The Commission (Eurostat) shall disseminate natural gas and electricity price statistics no later than five months after the end of each reference period.

*Article 9*

**Derogations**

1. Derogations may be granted by the Commission by means of implementing acts in relation to specific obligations for which the application of this Regulation to the national statistical system of a Member State requires major adaptations or is likely to lead to a significant additional burden on respondents. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 10(2).

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the Member State concerned shall submit a duly reasoned request to the Commission by 8 August 2017.

3. Derogations granted pursuant to paragraph 1 shall remain in force for the shortest period of time possible and in any event for no longer than three years.

4. A Member State that has been granted a derogation pursuant to paragraph 1 shall apply the relevant provisions of Directive 2008/92/EC for the duration of the derogation.

*Article 10*

**Committee procedure**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the European Statistical System Committee established by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

*Article 11*

**Repeal of Directive 2008/92/EC**

1. Directive 2008/92/EC is repealed with effect from 1 March 2017.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article, Directive 2008/92/EC shall continue to apply under the conditions provided for in Article 9 of this Regulation.

3. References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

*Article 12*

**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Strasbourg, 26 October 2016.

| *For the European Parliament* | *For the Council* |
|---|---|
| *The President* | *The President* |
| M. SCHULZ | I. LESAY |

*ANNEX I*

**NATURAL GAS PRICES**

This Annex sets out the methodology for the collection and compilation of statistical data on natural gas prices for household and final non-household customers.

1. Prices

Prices shall be those charged to household and final non-household customers buying natural gas for their own use that is distributed through mains.

2. Natural gas

Natural gas shall include natural gas and other gaseous fuels blended with natural gas in the transmission and distribution network, such as biogas. Other gaseous fuels that are distributed through dedicated networks without being blended with natural gas (e.g. gas works gas, coke oven gas, blast furnace gas and biogas) shall be excluded.

3. Reporting units

The data shall include all household and final non-household customers of natural gas, but shall exclude customers who use natural gas only for:

— electricity generation in power plants or in combined heat and power (CHP) plants; or

— non-energy purposes (e.g. for use in the chemicals industry).

4. Units of measurement

Prices shall be the national average prices charged to household and final non-household customers.

Prices shall be expressed in national currency per gigajoule (GJ). The unit of energy used shall be measured on the basis of the gross calorific value (GCV).

Prices shall be weighted according to the market share of natural gas supply undertakings in each consumption band. If it is not possible to calculate weighted average prices, arithmetic average prices may be provided. In either case, the data shall cover a representative share of the national market.

5. Consumption bands

Prices shall be based on a system of standard annual natural gas consumption bands.

(a) For household customers, the following bands shall be applied:

| Consumption band | Annual natural gas consumption (GJ) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Minimum | Maximum |
| Band D1 | | < 20 |
| Band D2 | ≥ 20 | < 200 |
| Band D3 | ≥ 200 | |

(b) For final non-household customers, the following bands shall be applied:

| Consumption band | Annual natural gas consumption (GJ) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Minimum | Maximum |
| Band I1 | | < 1 000 |
| Band I2 | ≥ 1 000 | < 10 000 |
| Band I3 | ≥ 10 000 | < 100 000 |
| Band I4 | ≥ 100 000 | < 1 000 000 |
| Band I5 | ≥ 1 000 000 | < 4 000 000 |
| Band I6 | ≥ 4 000 000 | |

6. Level of detail

Prices shall include all charges payable: network charges plus energy consumed, minus any rebates or premiums, plus any other charges (e.g. meter rental, standing charges). Initial connection charges shall be excluded.

Detailed data shall be transmitted as specified below.

(a) Level of detail required for components and sub-components

Prices shall be subdivided into three main components and into separate sub-components.

The final customer price for natural gas by consumption band is the sum of the three main components: the energy and supply component, the network component (transmission and distribution) and the component comprising taxes, fees, levies and charges.

| Component and sub-component | Description |
|---|---|
| Energy and supply | This component shall include the commodity price for natural gas paid by the supplier or the price of natural gas at the point of entry into the transmission system, including, if applicable, the following end-user costs: storage costs plus costs relating to the sale of natural gas to final customers. |
| Network | The network price shall include the following end-user costs: transmission and distribution tariffs, transmission and distribution losses, network costs, after-sale service costs, system service costs and meter rental and metering costs. |
| Sub-component | The network component shall be subdivided into end-user transmission and distribution network costs, as follows: |
| | 1. Average relative share of transmission costs for household customers and average relative share of transmission costs for final non-household customers, expressed as a percentage of total network costs. |
| | 2. Average relative share of distribution costs for household customers and average relative share of distribution costs for final non-household customers, expressed as a percentage of total network costs. |

| Component and sub-component | Description |
|---|---|
| Taxes, fees, levies and charges | This component is the sum of all the sub-components (taxes, fees, levies and charges) listed below. |
| Sub-component | The following sub-components shall be transmitted as individual items for each consumption band defined in point 5. |
| | 1. Value added tax as defined in Council Directive 2006/112/EC [1]. |
| | 2. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation. |
| | 3. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to strategic stockpiles, capacity payments and energy security; taxes on natural gas distribution; stranded costs and levies on financing energy regulatory authorities or market and system operators. |
| | 4. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to air quality and for other environmental purposes; taxes on emissions of $CO_2$ or other greenhouse gases. |
| | 5. All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous four categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices. |

[1] Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax (OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1).

(b) Level of detail based on taxation

Prices shall be broken down into the following three levels:

| Level | Description |
|---|---|
| Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges | This price level shall include only the energy and supply component and the network component. |
| Prices excluding value added tax (VAT) and other recoverable taxes | This price level shall include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered as non-recoverable for final non-household customers. For household customers this price level shall include the energy and network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges but excludes VAT. |
| Prices including all taxes | This price level shall include the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT. |

7. Consumption volumes

Member States shall transmit information on the relative share of natural gas in each consumption band based on the total volume to which the prices refer.

The annual consumption volumes for each consumption band shall be transmitted once per year, together with the price data for the second semester.

The data shall not be older than two years.

*ANNEX II*

**ELECTRICITY PRICES**

This Annex sets out the methodology for the collection and compilation of statistical data on electricity prices for household and final non-household customers.

1. Prices

Prices shall be those charged to household and final non-household customers buying electricity for their own use.

2. Reporting units

The data shall include all household and final non-household customers of electricity, but electricity generated and subsequently consumed by autoproducers shall be excluded from the reporting obligation.

3. Units of measurement

Prices shall be the national average prices charged to household and final non-household customers.

Prices shall be expressed in national currency per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Prices shall be weighted according to the market share of electricity supply undertakings in each consumption band. If it is not possible to calculate weighted average prices, arithmetic average prices may be provided. In either case, the data shall cover a representative share of the national market.

4. Consumption bands

Prices shall be based on a system of standard annual electricity consumption bands.

(a) For household customers, the following bands shall be applied:

| Consumption band | Annual electricity consumption (kWh) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Minimum | Maximum |
| Band DA | | < 1 000 |
| Band DB | ≥ 1 000 | < 2 500 |
| Band DC | ≥ 2 500 | < 5 000 |
| Band DD | ≥ 5 000 | < 15 000 |
| Band DE | ≥ 15 000 | |

(b) For final non-household customers, the following bands shall be applied:

| Consumption band | Annual electricity consumption (MWh) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Minimum | Maximum |
| Band IA | | < 20 |
| Band IB | ≥ 20 | < 500 |

| Consumption band | Annual electricity consumption (MWh) | |
|---|---|---|
| | Minimum | Maximum |
| Band IC | ≥ 500 | < 2 000 |
| Band ID | ≥ 2 000 | < 20 000 |
| Band IE | ≥ 20 000 | < 70 000 |
| Band IF | ≥ 70 000 | < 150 000 |
| Band IG | ≥ 150 000 | |

5. Level of detail

Prices shall include all charges payable: network charges plus energy consumed, minus any rebates or premiums, plus any other charges (e.g. meter rental, standing charges). Initial connection charges shall be excluded.

Detailed data shall be transmitted as specified below.

(a) Level of detail required for components and sub-components

Prices shall be subdivided into three main components and into separate sub-components.

The final customer price for electricity by consumption band is the sum of the three main components: the energy and supply component, the network component (transmission and distribution) and the component comprising taxes, fees, levies and charges.

| Component and sub-component | Description |
|---|---|
| Energy and supply | This component shall include the following end-user costs: generation, aggregation, balancing energy, supplied energy costs, customer services, after-sales management and other supply costs. |
| Network | The network price shall include the following end-user costs: transmission and distribution tariffs, transmission and distribution losses, network costs, after-sale service costs, system service costs, and meter rental and metering costs. |
| Sub-component | The network component shall be subdivided into end-user transmission and distribution network costs, as follows: |
| | 1. Average relative share of transmission costs for household customers and average relative share of transmission costs for final non-household customers, expressed as a percentage of total network costs. |
| | 2. Average relative share of distribution costs for household customers and average relative share of distribution costs for final non-household customers, expressed as a percentage of total network costs. |
| Taxes, fees, levies and charges | This component is the sum of all the sub-components (taxes, fees, levies and charges) listed below. |
| Sub-component | The following sub-components shall be transmitted as individual items for each consumption band defined in point 4. |

| Component and sub-component | Description |
|---|---|
| | 1. Value added tax as defined in Directive 2006/112/EC. |
| | 2. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the promotion of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and CHP generation. |
| | 3. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to capacity payments, energy security and generation adequacy; taxes on coal industry restructuring; taxes on electricity distribution; stranded costs and levies on financing energy regulatory authorities or market and system operators. |
| | 4. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to air quality and for other environmental purposes; taxes on emissions of $CO_2$ or other greenhouse gases. |
| | 5. Taxes, fees, levies or charges relating to the nuclear sector, including nuclear decommissioning, inspections and fees for nuclear installations. |
| | 6. All other taxes, fees, levies or charges not covered by any of the previous five categories: support for district heating; local or regional fiscal charges; island compensation; concession fees relating to licences and fees for the occupation of land and public or private property by networks or other devices. |

(b) Level of detail based on taxation

Prices shall be broken down into the following three levels:

| Level | Description |
|---|---|
| Prices excluding all taxes, fees, levies and charges | This price level shall include only the energy and supply component and the network component. |
| Prices excluding value added tax (VAT) and other recoverable taxes | This price level shall include the energy and supply component, the network component and taxes, fees, levies and charges considered as non-recoverable for final non-household customers. For household customers this price level shall include the energy and the network components and taxes, fees, levies and charges but excludes VAT. |
| Prices including all taxes | This price level shall include the energy and supply component, the network component, and all recoverable and non-recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges, including VAT. |

6. Consumption volumes

Member States shall transmit information on the relative share of electricity in each consumption band based on the total volume to which the prices refer.

The annual consumption volumes for each consumption band shall be transmitted once per year, together with the price data for the second semester.

The data shall not be older than two years.

# Annex 2 — Four questionnaires (draft versions)

eurostat

## Electricity prices for household customers

| | |
|---|---|
| Year | |
| Semester | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | |
| Organisation | |
| Contact Person | |
| E-mail address | |

### Table 1: Prices in national currency per kWh

| Household electricity consumption band | Confidental | Annual electricity consumption in kWh | | All taxes excluded | Flag | VAT excluded | Flag | All taxes +VAT included | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | Level 1 | | Level 2 | | Level 3 | |
| DA | | < 1 000 | | | | | | | |
| DB | | ≥ 1 000 | <2 500 | | | | | | |
| DC | | ≥ 2 500 | <5 000 | | | | | | |
| DD | | ≥ 5 000 | <15 000 | | | | | | |
| DE | | ≥ 15 000 | | | | | | | |

### Table 2: Components and sub-components in national currency per kWh

| Household electricity consumption band | Confidental | Annual electricity consumption in kWh | | Energy and supply | Flag | Network costs | Flag | Taxes, fees, levies and charges | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Value Added Tax | Flag | Promotion of renewable taxes | Flag | Capacity taxes | Flag | Environmental taxes | Flag | Nuclear taxes | Flag | All other taxes, fees, levies and charges | Flag | Total | Flag |
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DA | | < 1 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| DB | | ≥ 1 000 | <2 500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| DC | | ≥ 2 500 | <5 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| DD | | ≥ 5 000 | <15 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| DE | | ≥ 15 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |

### Table 3: Network cost in percentage

| Household electricity consumption bands | Confidental | Network cost (100%) | Flag | Transmission costs (%) | Flag | Distribution costs (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DA-DE | | 0.00 | | | | | |

### Table 4: Consumption volumes in percentage

| Household electricity consumption band | Confidental | Annual electricity consumption in kWh | | Consumption volumes (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| DA | | < 1 000 | | | |
| DB | | ≥ 1 000 | <2 500 | | |
| DC | | ≥ 2 500 | <5 000 | | |
| DD | | ≥ 5 000 | <15 000 | | |
| DE | | ≥ 15 000 | | | |
| | | **Total (100%)** | | 0.00 | |

Data to be reported every semester

eurostat

## Electricity prices for non-household customers

| | |
|---|---|
| Year | |
| Semester | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | |
| Organisation | |
| Contact Person | |
| E-mail address | |

### Table 1: Prices in national currency per kWh

| Non-household electricity consumption band | Confidental | Annual electricity consumption in MWh | | All taxes excluded | Flag | VAT + other recoverable excluded | Flag | All taxes included | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | Level 1 | | Level 2 | | Level 3 | |
| IA | | < 20 | | | | | | | |
| IB | | ≥ 20 | <500 | | | | | | |
| IC | | ≥ 500 | <2 000 | | | | | | |
| ID | | ≥ 2 000 | <20 000 | | | | | | |
| IE | | ≥ 20 000 | <70 000 | | | | | | |
| IF | | ≥70 000 | <150 000 | | | | | | |
| IG | | ≥ 150 000 | | | | | | | |

### Table 2: Components and sub-components in national currency per kWh

| Non-household electricity consumption band | Confidental | Annual electricity consumption in kWh | | Energy and supply | Flag | Network costs | Flag | Taxes, fees, levies and charges | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | | | | Value Added Tax | Flag | Promotion of renewable taxes | Flag | Capacity taxes | Flag | Environmental taxes | Flag | Nuclear taxes | Flag | All other taxes, fees, levies and charges | Flag | Total | Flag |
| IA | | < 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| IB | | ≥ 20 | <500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| IC | | ≥ 500 | <2 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| ID | | ≥ 2 000 | <20 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| IE | | ≥ 20 000 | <70 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| IF | | ≥70 000 | <150 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| IG | | ≥ 150 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |

### Table 3: Network cost in percentage

| Non-household electricity consumption bands | Confidental | Network cost (100%) | Flag | Transmission costs (%) | Flag | Distribution costs (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IA-IG | | 0.00 | | | | | |

### Table 4: Consumption volumes in percentage

| Non-household electricity consumption band | Confidental | Annual electricity consumption in MWh | | Consumption volumes (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| IA | | < 20 | | | |
| IB | | ≥ 20 | <500 | | |
| IC | | ≥ 500 | <2 000 | | |
| ID | | ≥ 2 000 | <20 000 | | |
| IE | | ≥ 20 000 | <70 000 | | |
| IF | | ≥70 000 | <150 000 | | |
| IG | | ≥ 150 000 | | | |
| | | **Total (100%)** | | 0.00 | |

Data to be reported every semester

eurostat

## Natural gas prices for household customers

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | |
| Organisation | |
| Contact Person | |
| E-mail address | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Year | |
| Semester | |

### Table 1: Prices in national currency per GJ

| Household gas consumption band | Confidental | Annual gas consumption in GJ | | All taxes excluded | Flag | VAT excluded | Flag | All taxes included | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | Level 1 | | Level 2 | | Level 3 | |
| D1 | | < 20 | | | | | | | |
| D2 | | ≥20 | < 200 | | | | | | |
| D3 | | ≥ 200 | | | | | | | |

### Table 2: Components and sub-components in national currency per GJ

| Household gas consumption band | Confidental | Annual gas consumption in GJ | | Energy and supply | Flag | Network costs | Flag | Taxes, fees, levies and charges | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | | | | Value Added Tax | Flag | Promotion of renewable taxes | Flag | Capacity taxes | Flag | Environmental taxes | Flag | All other taxes, fees, levies and charges | Flag | Total | Flag |
| D1 | | < 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D2 | | ≥20 | < 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D3 | | ≥ 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

### Table 3: Network cost in percentage

| Household gas consumption bands | Confidental | Network cost (100%) | Flag | Transmission costs (%) | Flag | Distribution costs (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D1-D3 | | 0.00 | | | | | |

### Table 4: Consumption volumes in percentage

| Household gas consumption band | Confidental | Annual gas consumption in GJ | | Consumption volumes (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| D1 | | < 20 | | | |
| D2 | | ≥20 | < 200 | | |
| D3 | | ≥ 200 | | | |
| | | **Total (100%)** | | 0.00 | |

Data to be reported every semester

Data to be reported once per year (together with the data of the second semester)

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## Natural gas prices for non-household customers

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | |
| Organisation | |
| Contact Person | |
| E-mail address | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Year | |
| Semester | |

### Table 1: Prices in national currency per GJ

| Non-household gas consumption band | Confidental | Annual gas consumption in GJ | | All taxes excluded | Flag | VAT +other non-recoverable excluded | Flag | All taxes included | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | Level 1 | | Level 2 | | Level 3 | |
| I1 | | < 1 000 | | | | | | | |
| I2 | | ≥1 000 | <10 000 | | | | | | |
| I3 | | ≥10 000 | <100 000 | | | | | | |
| I4 | | ≥100 000 | <1 000 000 | | | | | | |
| I5 | | ≥1 000 000 | <4 000 000 | | | | | | |
| I6 | | ≥ 4 000 000 | | | | | | | |

### Table 2: Components and sub-components in national currency per GJ

| Non-household gas consumption band | Confidental | Annual gas consumption in GJ | | Energy and supply | Flag | Network costs | Flag | Taxes, fees, levies and charges | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | | | | Value Added Tax | Flag | Promotion of renewable taxes | Flag | Capacity taxes | Flag | Environmental taxes | Flag | All other taxes, fees, levies and charges | Flag | Total | Flag |
| I1 | | < 1 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| I2 | | ≥1 000 | <10 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| I3 | | ≥10 000 | <100 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| I4 | | ≥100 000 | <1 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| I5 | | ≥1 000 000 | <4 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |
| I6 | | ≥ 4 000 000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0000 | |

### Table 3: Network cost in percentage

| Non-household gas consumption bands | Confidental | Network cost (100%) | Flag | Transmission costs (%) | Flag | Distribution costs (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I1-I7 | | 0.00 | | | | | |

### Table 4: Consumption volumes in percentage

| Non-household gas consumption band | Confidental | Annual gas consumption in GJ | | Consumption volumes (%) | Flag |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Minimum | Maximum | | |
| I1 | | < 1 000 | | | |
| I2 | | ≥1 000 | <10 000 | | |
| I3 | | ≥10 000 | <100 000 | | |
| I4 | | ≥100 000 | <1 000 000 | | |
| I5 | | ≥1 000 000 | <4 000 000 | | |
| I6 | | ≥ 4 000 000 | | | |
| | | **Total (100%)** | | 0.00 | |

Data to be reported every semester

Data to be reported once per year (together with the data of the second semester)

# Annex 3 — Frequently Asked Questions

## Frequently asked questions on natural gas and electricity price statistics

### 1 SWITCHING BONUSES

Question: An electricity company awards a switching bonus to clients that terminate their contract with their current provider and switch to them. Are these switching bonuses to be taken into account in the calculation of the average national price?

Answer: Yes and No

**No**: If the switching bonus is awarded to new clients in the form of a gift, e.g. theatre tickets, tablet computer etc., this should not be included in the calculation of the average price.

**No**: If the switching bonus is not awarded by the electricity company but by an internet platform that is designed to encourage switching, this bonus is not included.

**Yes**: If the switching bonus is in the form of money (either an amount that is deducted from the electricity bill or an amount that is paid either at the beginning or at the end of a contract) or in the form of a certain quantity of free electricity (e.g. free electricity for the first 6 weeks), this has to be included in the calculation of the average national price

### 2 PENALTIES FOR TERMINATING A CONTRACT

Question: Are fines or penalties that are applied by enterprises to their clients to be taken into account when calculating the average national natural gas or electricity prices? These penalties or fines can be applied by enterprises (not in every country) if a client wishes to switch to another supplier before the contract has expired.

Answer: No, penalties or fines are not to be taken into account in the calculation of the national average natural gas and electricity prices.

### 3 TIME PERIOD FOR REPORTING THE BREAKDOWN OF NETWORK PRICES, COMPONENTS AND SUB-COMPONENTS AND RELATIVE CONSUMPTION VOLUMES

Question: Reporting authorities are obliged to report once a year, along with the semester 2 price data, a breakdown of the network prices into transmission and distribution costs and a composition of components and sub-components and relative consumption volumes. Does this data need to cover the whole year or only one semester?

Answer: The breakdown of the network prices into transmission and distribution prices and the composition of the components and sub-components in table 2 as well as the relative consumption figures in table 4 have to cover the whole calendar year. So if the data is reported for e.g. 2017 semester 2, the reference period for the data in tables 2, 3 and 4 should be the whole calendar year 2017.

## 4 USE OF EXCEL TEMPLATES

Question: We have discovered a mistake in the submission of our 2015 electricity price data. Should we use the "old" excel templates for providing a correction?

Answer: No. As of 1st July 2017, all data either for future reference periods of for corrections of previous semesters has to be done using the new templates that are available from the relevant section of the Eurostat website:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/methodology/prices

## 5 LATE SUBMISSION OF DATA FROM A DATA PROVIDER

Question: We collect electricity price data from 4 electricity companies. One electricity company that has only a small market share (2%) is always late with providing their electricity price data to our NSI. Are we allowed to extend the deadline for submitting the data?

Answer: No, the deadlines as defined in the Regulation on natural gas and electricity price statistics have to be respected without exemption. In this case, it is, however, advisable to exclude this rather small enterprise from the data survey

## 6 FORMAT OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Question: There are rumours that Eurostat will soon implement the SDMX format for the price data to be submitted. Is this true?

Answer: For the time being, the price data will continue to be reported with excel spreadsheets that are modified to take into account the additional data on taxes and network costs and the explicit editing of confidentiality status. In addition there are modifications to allow a conversion of the Excel file to the SDMX-CSV format. The reporting authorities can simply send the Excel questionnaires and ignore the SDMX creation features. In the future (timing is to be decided in the Energy Statistics Working Group) the reporting authorities will have two options. The first one is to use the Excel questionnaires which they can transform into a SDMX-CSV file using a tool of Eurostat; the reporting authority sends the SDMX-CSV file to Eurostat. The second option is that the reporting authority directly creates the SDMX-CSV file from their national information system. Within the ESS the long term goal is indeed to standardise transmission and share the validation using SDMX

## 7 PROVISIONAL DATA

Question: At the time of reporting the price data to Eurostat, one subcomponent on taxes and levies was not available. Should we add a "0" or leave the field empty?

Answer: If the data for a sub-component is not available, this data field should be estimated.

## 8 QUALITY REPORT

Question: When will the details for the quality report be finalised, and when should it be provided for the first time by the reporting authorities?

Answer: The requirements that will be addressed in the quality report will be discussed by a task force in 2017. The reporting requirements will be adopted via an implementing act, most likely in 2018. The first submission of the quality report is expected to take place in 2019.

## 9 THRESHOLD FOR GAS CONSUMPTION

Question: The gas consumption in our country for the non-household sector is relatively low, about 1% of the total energy consumption in this sector. Do we need to report the data, as I see that there is a threshold of 1.5% where the data does not have to be reported?

Answer: This threshold is only applicable to the household sector. If the energy consumption of natural gas in the household sector is below 1.5% of the total energy consumption in this sector, then this dataset does not have to be reported (but it can be reported on a voluntary basis).

## 10 DOWNLOAD OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Question: Where can we find the new questionnaires?

Answer: The 4 questionnaires can be downloaded from the energy statistics section of the Eurostat website, from 1st July 2017 onwards:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/methodology/prices

## 11 CONSUMPTION FIGURES

Question: Do we need to report the consumption figures for each consumption band from table 4 of the questionnaire on a half-yearly or on a yearly basis?

Answer: The consumption data for each consumption band has to be provided in percentages and should refer to the latest available data (usually this is on an annual basis). Eurostat will not publish this data explicitly, but this data will be used to calculate single price data by weighting the band data with the corresponding consumption figures (in this case, percentages)

## 12 OLD QUESTIONNAIRES

Question: Can we still us then the old questionnaires to report our price data, as we have requested to be derogated from the additional requirements on sub-components on taxes and levies and network costs?

Answer: No. In any case, all questionnaires that will be forwarded to Eurostat from 1st July 2017 onwards need to be the new version. Questionnaires in the old format will not be accepted anymore, as it cannot be read by the database input module.

## 13 ESTIMATION OF DATA

Question: In our country there is no information available on separate prices for transmission and distribution costs. Can we simply ignore to declare this data?

Answer: No. If this data is not available, it should be estimated. The appropriate flags have to be used to earmark the estimated data. Price data or components or sub-components that have been determined via modelling do not need to be earmarked.

## 14 IEA PRICE DATA COLLECTIONS

Question: How does the Eurostat prices reporting methodology compare with that of the International Energy Agency?

Answer: The International Energy Agency (IEA) collects natural gas and electricity prices and taxes data, along with other forms of energy. IEA member countries have the obligation to submit prices and taxes information on a quarterly basis in an MS Excel-based questionnaire, for both households, industries and the electricity generation sector (for natural gas).

**Reporting frequency:** IEA member countries are required to report energy prices and taxes data on a quarterly basis. Data for the first and second quarters of the year should be consistent with those for first semester reported to the Commission, and data for the third and fourth quarters of the year should be consistent with those for second semester reported to the Commission.

**National average prices:** The IEA collects national weighted-average prices, based on all relevant consumption bands for each sector in the country. The IEA National weighted-average prices can be computed by the reporting agencies using the consumption volumes (in percentages) reported in Table 4 of the questionnaires, as weights.

**Sectoral coverage:** For households, the IEA's sectoral definitions are identical to those of the Commission (i.e., all consumption bands D1, D2, D3 for natural gas and DA, DB, DC, DD and DE for electricity). For industry, the IEA considers that using all non-household consumption bands provides a good estimation of the average prices paid in the industrial sector. The exclusion of natural gas used for non-energy uses and electricity generation is consistent with the IEA's methodology. Natural gas prices for electricity generation are collected separately by the IEA.

**Recoverable taxes, fees, levies and charges:** The IEA collects effective end-use prices, net of refunds, premiums and recoverable expenses. As a consequence, tax expenditures that are fully or partially recoverable by consumers are to be excluded. For that reason, end-use natural gas and electricity prices for the industrial sector reported to the IEA correspond to Level 2 prices (VAT and other recoverable taxes excluded), as described in this guide.

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# Compilers guide on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices

This Compilers Guide provides conceptual issues and practical information and guidance for reporting authorities to compile and report natural gas and electricity price statistics to Eurostat based on the Regulation (EU) 2016/1952. The compilers guide includes examples of 5 reporting authorities that illustrate the practical application of this regulation, in particular the reporting of taxes, fees, levies and charges and network costs.

For more information
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

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