This article highlights the development of electricity prices both for household and non-household consumers within the European Union (EU). It also includes price data from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\(^1\), Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia.

The price of energy in the EU depends on a range of different supply and demand conditions, including the geopolitical situation, the national energy mix, import diversification, network costs, environmental protection costs, severe weather conditions, or levels of excise and taxation. Note that prices presented in this article include taxes, levies and VAT for household consumers, but exclude refundable taxes and levies and VAT for non-household consumers.

### Electricity prices for household consumers

**Highest electricity prices in Germany and Denmark**

An overview of average electricity prices in euro per kilowatt-hour (EUR per kWh) for the last three years (first half of each year in order to avoid seasonal effect) is presented in Table 1.

\(^1\)This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
Table 1: Electricity prices 2017-2019 (First semesters) (EUR per kWh) Source: Eurostat (nrg_pc_204) and (nrg_pc_205)

For household consumers, (defined for the purpose of this article as medium-size consumers with an annual consumption within the range of 2 500 kWh < consumption < 5 000 kWh), electricity prices during the first half of 2019 were highest among the EU Member States in Germany (EUR 0.3088 per kWh), Denmark (EUR 0.2984 per kWh) and Belgium (EUR 0.2839 per kWh); see Figure 1. The lowest electricity prices were in Bulgaria (EUR 0.0997 per kWh), Hungary (EUR 0.1120 per kWh) and Lithuania (EUR 0.1255 per kWh). The price of electricity for household consumers in Germany was almost three times as high as the price in Bulgaria.
The EU-28 average price in the first semester of 2019 — a weighted average using the most recent (2017) data for the quantity of electricity consumption by households — was EUR 0.2159 per kWh.

The development of electricity prices for household consumers in the EU-28 and euro area since the first half of 2008 is presented in Figure 2. The price of the energy, the supply and the network (prices without taxes) remained stable during the last decade. It went from EUR 0.1149 per kWh in the first half of 2008 to EUR 0.1411 per kWh in the second half of 2014 and now stands at EUR 0.1356 per kWh. However, the weight of the taxes has increased constantly from 27% in 2008 to 37% in 2019.

Figure 1: Electricity prices for household consumers, first half 2019 (EUR per kWh)

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_204)
Weight of taxes and levies differs greatly between Member States

The proportion of taxes and levies in the overall electricity retail price for household consumers is shown in Figure 3. The relative amount of tax contribution in the first half of 2019 in the EU was smallest in Malta (5.9 %) where a low VAT rate is applied to the basic price and no other taxes are charged to household consumers. The highest taxes were charged in Denmark where 63.7 % of the final price was made up of taxes and levies.
Figure 3: Share of taxes and levies paid by household consumers for the electricity, first half 2019

Largest falls in electricity prices in Denmark, Portugal and Poland

Figure 4 shows the change in electricity prices for household consumers including all taxes and VAT in national currency terms between the first half of 2018 and the first half of 2019; these prices fell during the period under consideration in four of the EU Member States. The highest price increase was observed in Netherlands (20.3 %), while the price of electricity for household consumers fell most notably in Denmark (-4.3 %).
Electricity prices for non-household consumers

Electricity prices highest in Italy and Cyprus

For non-household consumers (defined for the purpose of this article as medium-size consumers with an annual consumption within the range of 500 MWh < consumption < 2 000 MWh), electricity prices during the first half of 2019 were highest among the EU Member States in Italy and Cyprus (see Figure 5). The EU-28 average price in the first semester of 2019 — a weighted average using the most recent (2017) national data for the quantity of consumption by non-household consumers — was EUR 0.1251 per kWh.
The development of electricity prices for non-household consumers in the EU-28 since the first half of 2008 is shown in Figure 6. The price of the energy, the supply and the network (prices without taxes) first increased, going from EUR 0.0846 per kWh in the first half of 2008 to EUR 0.0959 per kWh in the first half of 2012, and now stands at EUR 0.0875 per kWh. However, the weight of the taxes has increased constantly from 13% in 2008 to 30% in 2019.
Figure 6: Development of electricity prices for non-household consumers, EU-28 and EA, 2008-2019 (EUR per kWh)

Proportion of non-recoverable taxes and levies in electricity prices

The proportion of non-recoverable taxes and levies in the overall electricity price for non-household consumers is presented in Figure 7. In the first half of 2019, the highest share of taxes was charged in Germany, where non-recoverable taxes and levies made up 45.1% of the total price.
Figure 7: Share of non-recoverable taxes and levies paid by non-household consumers for the electricity, first half 2019 (%)

(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_205)

Development of electricity prices for non-household consumers

Figure 8 shows the change in electricity prices for non-household consumers including all non-recoverable taxes and levies in national currency terms between the first half of 2018 and the first half of 2019; these prices fell during this period in only one of the EU Member States, by 12.2 % in Denmark. The highest price increase was observed in Romania (19.2 %).
Defining household consumers

Throughout this article, references to household consumers relate to the medium standard household consumption band with an annual electricity consumption between 2 500 and 5 000 kWh. All figures are consumer retail prices and include taxes, levies and VAT.

Note that the comparison between the 2018 and 2019 prices are made with prices in national currencies in order to exclude the influence of changes in exchange rates between national currencies and the euro for EU Member States and non-member countries that do not use the euro.

Defining non-household consumers

Source data for tables and graphs

- Electricity price statistics tables and graphs

Data sources
Throughout this article, references to non-household consumers relate to the medium standard non-household consumption band with an annual consumption of electricity between 500 and 2 000 MWh. In this article, prices are presented corresponding to the basic price for electricity production and network costs, including all non-recoverable taxes and levies.

**Methodology**

Due to a change in methodology from 2007 onwards, there is a break in series and hence only a relatively short time series is available. Nevertheless, even in this relatively short timeframe, electricity prices have fluctuated considerably.

In 2016, Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 entered into force which defines the obligation for the collection and dissemination of electricity prices for household and non-household consumers. Until January 2017, price data for the household sector was provided by the reporting authorities on a voluntary basis. Until 2016, the domain of non-household consumers was defined as industrial consumers, but reporting authorities were allowed to include other non-household consumers. With the introduction of Regulation (EU) 2016/1952, the definition was changed from industrial to non-household consumers in order to have a unique methodology for all reporting countries.

Electricity tariffs or price schemes vary from one supplier to another. They may result from negotiated contracts, especially for large non-household consumers. For smaller consumers, they are generally set according to the amount of electricity 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. In order to compare prices over time and between EU Member States, this article shows information for consumption bands for household consumers and for non-household consumers. There are in total five different types of households for which electricity prices are collected following different annual consumption bands. Across non-household consumers, electricity prices are collected for a total of seven different types of users.

The prices collected cover average prices over a period of six months (a half year or semester) from January to June (first half or semester 1) and from July to December (second half or semester 2) of each year. Prices include the basic price of the electricity, transmission and distribution charges, meter rental, and other services. Electricity prices for household consumers are presented including taxes, levies, non-tax levies, fees and value added tax (VAT) as this generally reflects the end price paid by household consumers. As non-household consumers are usually able to recover VAT and some other taxes, prices for enterprises are shown without VAT and other recoverable taxes/levies/fees. The unit for electricity prices is that of euro per kilowatt hour (EUR per kWh).

**Context**

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. In contrast to the price of fossil fuels, which are usually traded on global markets with relatively uniform prices, there is a wider range of prices within the EU Member States for electricity. The price of electricity is, to some degree, influenced by the price of primary fuels and, more recently, by the cost of carbon dioxide (CO2) emission certificates.

These issues were touched upon in a Communication from the European Commission *Facing the challenge of higher oil prices* (COM(2008) 384), which called on the EU to become more efficient in its use of energy, and less dependent on fossil fuels — in particular, by following the approach laid out in the climate change and renewable energy package.

The EU has acted to liberalise electricity and gas markets since the second half of the 1990s. Directives adopted in 2003 established common rules for internal markets for electricity and natural gas. Deadlines were set for opening markets and allowing customers to choose their supplier: as of 1 July 2004 for business customers and as of 1 July 2007 for all consumers (including households). Some EU Member States anticipated the liberalisation process, while others were much slower in adopting the necessary measures. Indeed, significant barriers to entry remain in many electricity and natural gas markets as seen through the number of markets...
that are still dominated by (near) monopoly suppliers. In July 2009, the European Parliament and Council
adopted a third package of legislative proposals aimed at ensuring a real and effective choice of suppliers, as
well as benefits for customers. It is thought that increased transparency for gas and electricity prices should
help promote fair competition, by encouraging consumers to choose between different energy sources (oil, coal,
natural gas and renewable energy sources) and different suppliers. Energy price transparency can be made
more effective by publishing and broadcasting as widely as possible prices and pricing systems.

Other articles

- Energy price statistics — background
- Energy production and imports
- Natural gas price statistics

Main tables

- Energy (t_nrg), see

Energy Statistics - prices (t_nrg_price)
  Electricity prices by type of user (ten00117)

Database

- Energy (nrg), see:

Energy Statistics - prices of natural gas and electricity (nrg_price)
  Energy statistics - natural gas and electricity prices (from 2007 onwards) (nrg_pc)
  Energy statistics - natural gas and electricity prices (until 2007) (nrg_pc_h)

Dedicated section

- Energy

Methodology

- Energy statistics - electricity prices for domestic and industrial consumers, price components
  (ESMS metadata file — nrg_pc_204_esms)

Visualisations

Visualisation energy prices

External links

- Eurelectric
- Europe’s Energy Portal
- European Commission - Energy

- Weekly oil bulletin (weekly pump prices)
  - Single market progress report for gas and electricity
  - International Energy Agency (IEA) — Prices and taxes statistics