

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

Between July 2005 and July 2006, EU-25 gas prices went up on average by 20% for households and 29% for industrial consumers

Statistics in focus

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

19/2006

Energy

Authors

John GOERTEN
Emmanuel CLEMENT

Contents

Highlights	1
Gas Prices July 2005 – July 2006	2
Composition of the gas prices	3
Share of taxes in the final prices.....	4
Prices in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) per GJ	5
Evolution of the EU-15 gas prices and of the oil prices	6



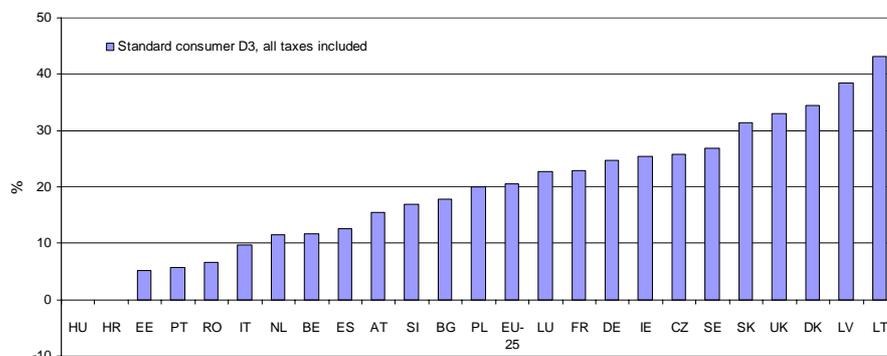
Manuscript completed on: 07.12.2006
Data extracted on: 17.11.2006
ISSN 1562-3106
Catalogue number: KS-NQ-06-019-EN-N
© European Communities, 2006

Highlights

EU-25 gas prices expressed in euro increased by 20% for households* and by 29% for industrial consumers* between July 2005 and July 2006.

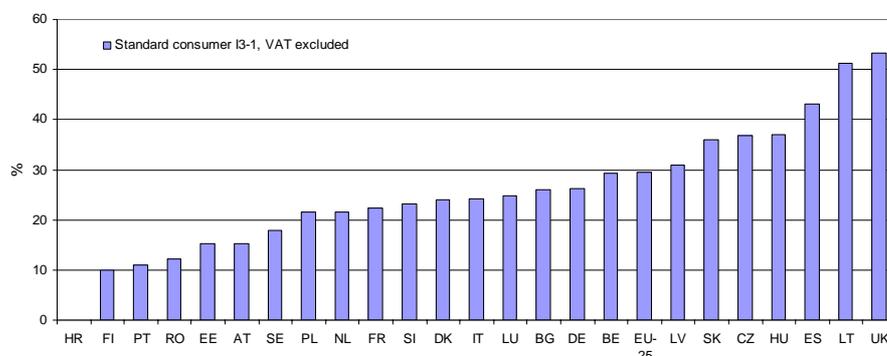
For households, the largest price increases between July 2005 and July 2006 occurred in Lithuania (43%), Latvia (38%), and Denmark (34%).

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



For industrial consumers, the largest price increases between July 2005 and July 2006 occurred in the UK (53%), in Lithuania (51%) and in Spain (43%).

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



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

See page 7 for methodological information on the classification of standard consumers and remarks on Austrian prices.

Gas Prices July 2005 – July 2006

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

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

	EU-25	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU
July 2005	11.62	12.64	232.32	203.10	13.83	72.44	12.08	10.96	9.98	16.02	3.20	17.00	8.78
July 2006	14.00	14.11	292.08	273.00	17.24	76.22	13.60	13.46	12.51	17.57	4.43	24.32	10.78
	HU	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO	
July 2005	1326.11	15.33	13.56	32.60	13.33	2826.00	283.00	196.00	5.13	13.46	60.32	24.27	
July 2006	1324.15	17.10	15.65	39.14	14.09	3306.00	372.00	248.80	6.82	15.85	60.32	25.89	

Table 1 illustrates the trend in household gas prices between 1 July 2005 and 1 July 2006 for EU25 Member States, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

This shows that gas prices for household consumers went up in all EU25 Member States except Hungary.

The highest increases are observed in Lithuania (43%), Latvia (38%) and Denmark (34%). Gas prices for domestic consumers went slightly down in Hungary (less than 1%) and remained unchanged in Croatia.

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

The EU-25 gas price for households (this aggregate is weighted by 2004 national consumption) shows an increase of 20 % between July 2005 and July 2006.

Similar increases (between 15% and 24%) have been observed for other standard consumer types.

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

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

	EU-25	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU
July 2005	7.12	5.78	159.24	48.00	9.61	43.06	4.86	6.91	:	7.00	2.42	11.53	7.56
July 2006	9.22	7.47	217.91	59.50	12.14	49.64	6.96	8.46	:	8.69	3.17	17.44	9.44
	HU	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO
July 2005	1631.23	8.00	8.55	22.73	6.81	1579.00	206.00	7.26	100.50	4.62	7.20	50.79	18.73
July 2006	2234.20	9.73	9.86	27.62	7.56	1944.00	280.00	7.98	118.40	7.08	9.07	50.79	21.00

Table 2 illustrates the trend for industrial gas prices between 1 July 2005 and 1 July 2006 for EU25 Member States (except Ireland, which did not report data for the standard consumer I3-1) and for Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

This shows that gas prices for industrial consumers increased in all 21 EU25 Member States that have reported gas prices for this consumer type.

The significant price increase is due to an increase of the basic price.

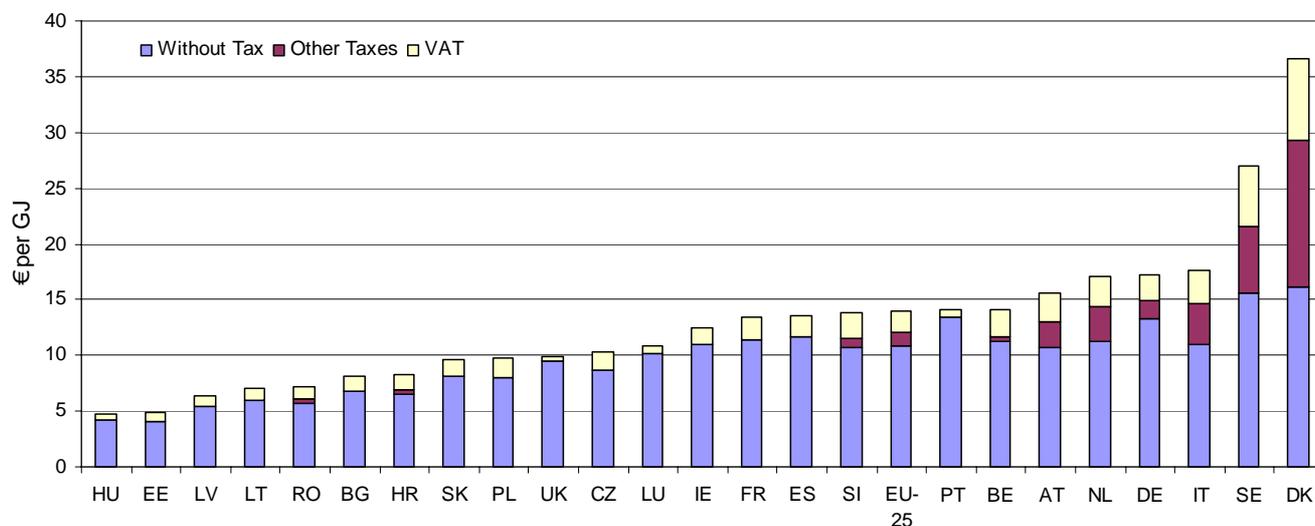
The EU-25 gas price for industrial consumers (this aggregate is weighted by 2004 national consumption) shows an increase of 29% between July 2005 and July 2006.

Similar increases (between 27% and 35%) can also be observed for the other standard consumers.

Composition of the gas prices

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

Standard consumer D3 : annual consumption of 83.7 GJ



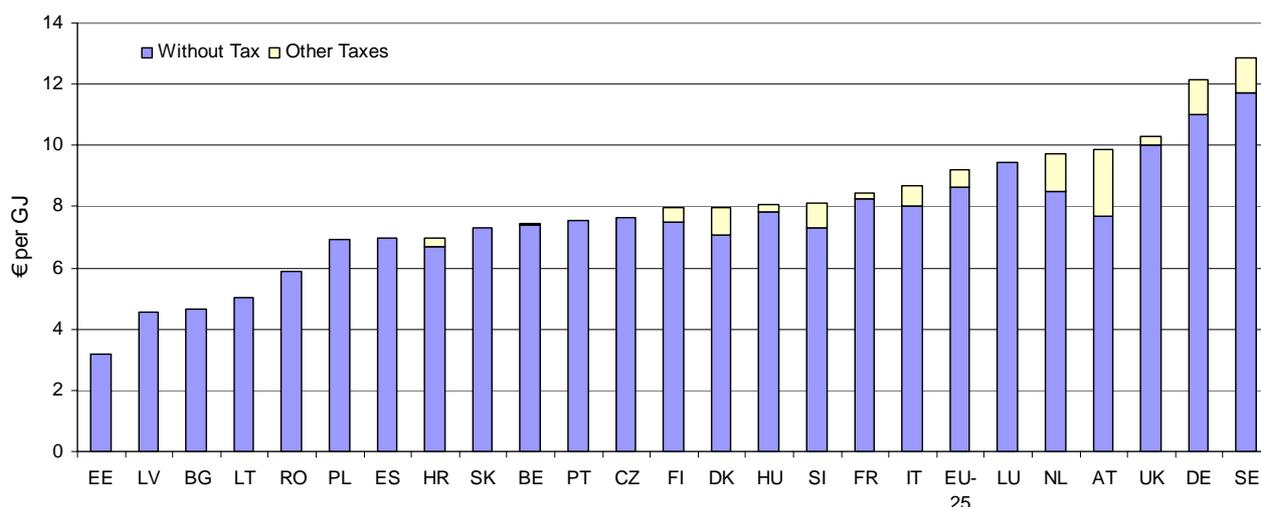
For household consumers, gas prices on 1 July 2006 were the most expensive in Denmark and Sweden, more than EUR 35 and EUR 25 per GJ respectively.

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

As of 1 July 2006 the EU-25 price (this price is weighted with 2004 annual national consumption for the domestic sector) is EUR 14.00 per GJ.

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

Standard consumer I3-1 : annual consumption of 41.86 TJ



For industrial consumers, gas prices (including taxes, but excluding VAT) on 1 July 2006 were the most expensive in Sweden, in Germany and in the UK, all over EUR 10 per GJ.

The lowest prices for this standard consumer were charged in the three Baltic countries and in Bulgaria.

As of 1 July 2006 the EU-25 price (weighted by 2004 annual national consumption for the industrial sector) is EUR 9.22 per GJ.

Share of taxes in the final prices

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

Standard consumer D3, annual consumption of 83.7 GJ

Standard consumer I3-1, annual consumption of 41.86 TJ

Share of taxes in the households prices :

	Basic price	Other taxes	V.A.T	All Taxes
	in € per GJ			in %
PT	13.42	0.00	0.67	4.8
UK	9.44	0.00	0.48	4.8
LU	10.17	0.00	0.61	5.7
IE	11.02	0.00	1.49	11.9
HU	4.15	0.00	0.62	13.0
ES	11.72	0.00	1.88	13.8
FR	11.42	0.00	2.04	15.2
EE	4.13	0.00	0.74	15.2
LT	5.97	0.00	1.07	15.2
LV	5.39	0.00	0.97	15.3
SK	8.16	0.00	1.53	15.8
CZ	8.63	0.00	1.64	16.0
BG	6.75	0.00	1.35	16.7
PL	8.03	0.00	1.76	18.0
BE	11.22	0.45	2.44	20.5
RO	5.71	0.38	1.16	21.2
HR	6.53	0.38	1.41	21.5
EU-25	10.89	1.24	1.87	22.2
SI	10.70	0.80	2.30	22.5
DE	13.33	1.53	2.38	22.7
AT	10.72	2.32	2.61	31.5
NL	11.24	3.13	2.73	34.3
IT	11.01	3.60	2.96	37.3
SE	15.57	6.02	5.40	42.3
DK	16.18	13.10	7.31	55.8

Share of taxes in the industry prices :

	Basic price	Other taxes	Taxes
	in € per GJ		in %
EE	3.17	0.00	0.0
LV	4.55	0.00	0.0
BG	4.64	0.00	0.0
LT	5.05	0.00	0.0
RO	5.88	0.00	0.0
PL	6.91	0.00	0.0
ES	6.96	0.00	0.0
SK	7.30	0.00	0.0
PT	7.56	0.00	0.0
CZ	7.66	0.00	0.0
LU	9.44	0.00	0.0
BE	7.39	0.08	1.1
FR	8.27	0.19	2.2
HU	7.85	0.20	2.5
UK	10.00	0.29	2.8
HR	6.69	0.31	4.4
FI	7.51	0.47	5.9
EU-25	8.66	0.56	6.1
IT	8.01	0.68	7.8
SE	11.72	1.13	8.8
DE	11.03	1.11	9.1
SI	7.31	0.80	9.9
DK	7.05	0.93	11.7
NL	8.50	1.23	12.6
AT	7.71	2.15	21.8

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

The first column corresponds to the prices excluding all taxes. The figures displayed in columns 2 (and 3 for households) are absolute tax contributions in euro per GJ. The last column shows the relative share of taxes in the final gas price.

Household consumers

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

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

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

Industrial consumers

As it can be seen from the above table on industrial consumers, nine EU25 Member States do not charge taxes other than VAT.

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

Prices in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) per GJ

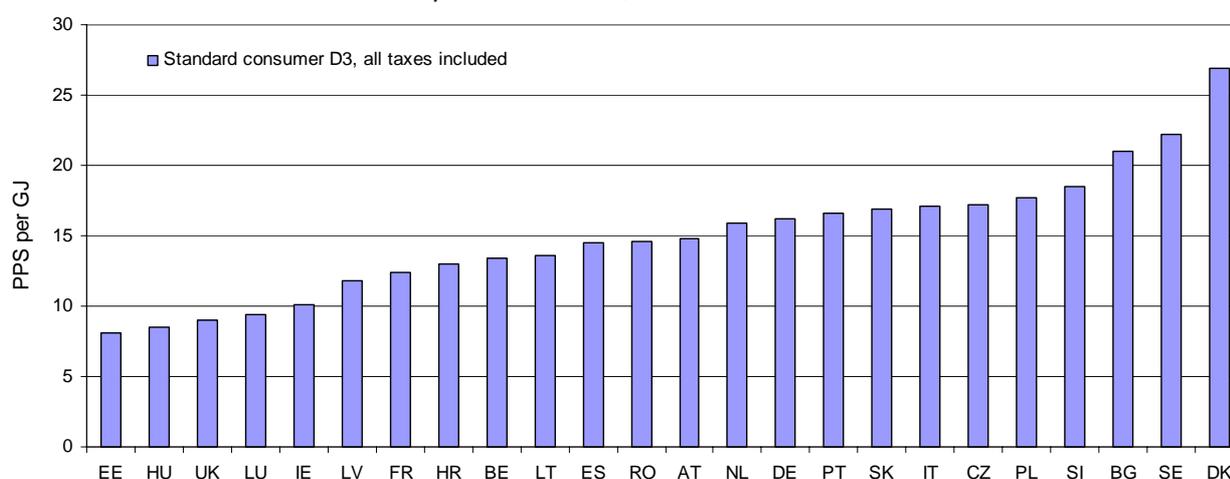
Table 4 : Prices in PPS per GJ (Households : D3, all taxes included ; Industry : I3-1 , without VAT)

	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	HU
Households (D3)	13.40	17.20	26.87	16.20	8.07	14.47	12.41	10.11	17.12	11.76	13.61	9.44	8.54
Industry (I3-1)	7.09	12.83	5.86	11.41	5.26	7.41	7.80	:	8.47	8.42	9.76	8.27	14.41

	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO
Households (D3)	15.87	14.82	17.74	16.59	18.48	16.90	:	22.24	8.97	21.02	12.96	14.60
Industry (I3-1)	9.03	9.33	12.52	8.90	10.87	12.72	7.02	10.58	9.31	12.03	10.91	11.84

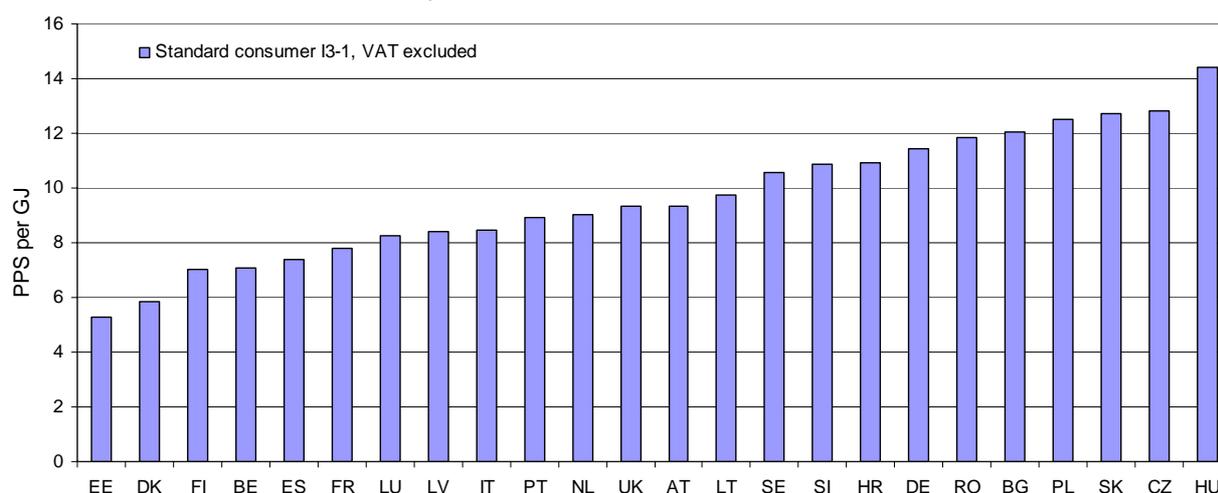
Graph 5: Prices in PPS per GJ for domestic consumers as of 1 July 2006

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



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

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



In graphs 5 and 6, Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) are used to make alternative international comparisons. PPS is an artificial common reference currency unit that eliminates price level differences between countries.

One PPS thus buys the same given volume of goods/services in all countries.

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

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

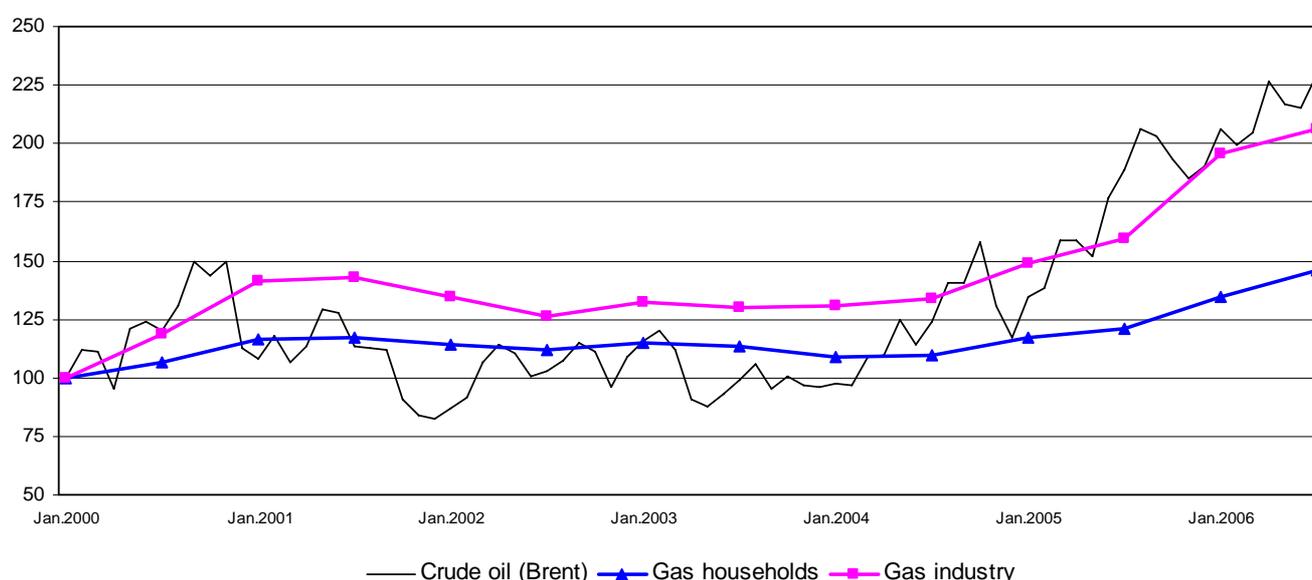
Evolution of the EU-15 gas prices and of the oil prices

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

	Jan 2000	Jul 2000	Jan 2001	Jul 2001	Jan 2002	Jul 2002	Jan 2003
Households (D3)	10.01	10.65	11.65	11.71	11.43	11.19	11.49
Industry (I3-1)	4.57	5.41	6.46	6.54	6.16	5.76	6.03
	Jul 2003	Jan 2004	Jul 2004	Jan 2005	Jul 2005	Jan 2006	Jul 2006
Households (D3)	11.34	10.93	10.96	11.75	12.10	13.43	14.60
Industry (I3-1)	5.95	5.98	6.12	6.79	7.28	8.93	9.41

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

Index January 2000 = 100



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

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

Household consumers

Taking 2000 as a starting point, the average price actually paid by household consumers increased significantly between January 2000 and January 2001, but remained relatively stable thereafter until July 2004. From July 2004 to July 2006 a price increase of about 34% can be observed.

Industrial consumers

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

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

As in the household sector, a significant price increase was observed between 2000 and 2001. From 2001 to 2004, the price paid by industry at EU-15 level for a GJ of gas decreased by 9%, but a significant price increase of 57% between January 2004 and July 2006 can be observed.

IPE BRENT Crude Oil Price

Between 2000 and 2006, the trend in gas prices for industrial consumers was in line with the increase in the IPE Brent Crude Oil Price for the same period (increase from EUR 25 per BBL in January 2000 to EUR 58 per BBL in July 2006).

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION - METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Standard Consumers

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

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

Standard consumers for households:

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

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

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

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

Standard consumers for industry:

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

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

Updates of January 2006 prices

Updates on gas price data for 1 January 2006 have been received for the following countries: Hungary and Italy (Households and Industry), the Netherlands and Germany (Industry only).

Austrian gas prices

As of 1 July 2006, the survey of Austrian gas prices for Industry was extended to the Vienna wide area region.

EU averages

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

Exchange rates

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

Conversion table in PPS and euro

			1 PPS =	1 EUR =			1 PPS =	1 EUR =	
Belgium	BE	(EUR)	1.05	1.00	Malta	MT	(MTL)	0.31	0.43
Czech Rep.	CZ	(CZK)	16.98	28.45	Netherlands	NL	(EUR)	1.08	1.00
Denmark	DK	(DKK)	10.16	7.46	Austria	AT	(EUR)	1.06	1.00
Germany	DE	(EUR)	1.06	1.00	Poland	PL	(PLN)	2.21	4.00
Estonia	EE	(EEK)	9.44	15.65	Portugal	PT	(EUR)	0.85	1.00
Greece	EL	(EUR)	0.88	1.00	Slovenia	SI	(SIT)	178.87	239.65
Spain	ES	(EUR)	0.94	1.00	Slovakia	SK	(SKK)	22.02	38.38
France	FR	(EUR)	1.08	1.00	Finland	FI	(EUR)	1.14	1.00
Ireland	IE	(EUR)	1.24	1.00	Sweden	SE	(SEK)	11.19	9.22
Italy	IT	(EUR)	1.03	1.00	United Kingdom	UK	(GBP)	0.76	0.69
Cyprus	CY	(CYP)	0.53	0.58	Bulgaria	BG	(BGN)	0.75	1.96
Latvia	LV	(LVL)	0.38	0.70	Croatia	HR	(HRK)	4.65	7.25
Lithuania	LT	(LTL)	1.79	3.45	Romania	RO	(ROL)	1.77	3.57
Luxembourg	LU	(EUR)	1.14	1.00	Norway	NO	(NOK)	11.08	7.94
Hungary	HU	(HUF)	155.07	277.49					

Further information:

Reference publications

Title	Gas and electricity market statistics
Catalogue No	KS-71-05-392-EN-C
Price	30 EUR

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

Environment and energy

Environment

Energy

Main indicators - Energy Statistics

Energy Statistics - quantities

Energy Statistics - prices

Gas - domestic consumers - half-yearly prices

Gas - industrial consumers - half-yearly prices

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/017
L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408
Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.ec

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site: www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

2, rue Mercier
L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.ec.europa.eu>
E-mail: info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu
