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Gas prices for EU households and industrial consumers on 1 January 2007

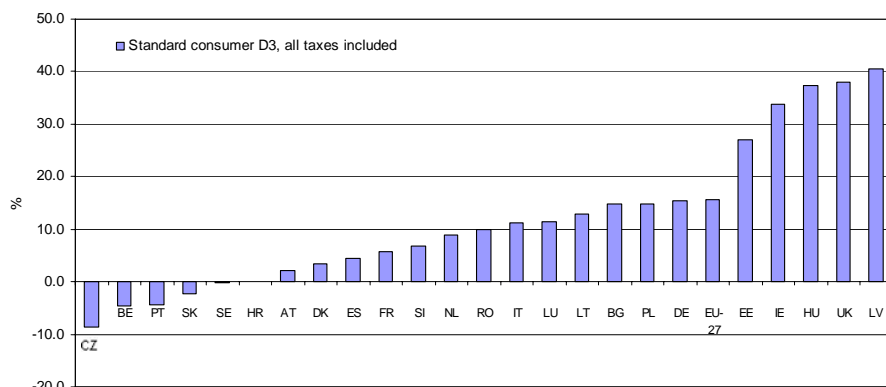
Between January 2006 and January 2007, EU-27 gas prices went up by 16% for households and 9 % for industrial consumers.

Highlights

EU-27 gas prices expressed in euro increased by 16% for households* and by 9% for industrial consumers* between January 2006 and January 2007.

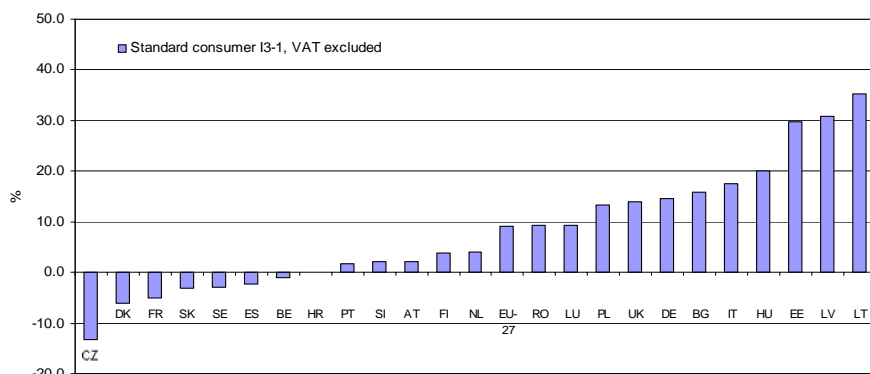
For households, the largest price increases between January 2006 and January 2007 occurred in Latvia (41%), in the UK (38%) and Hungary (37%). The largest decrease occurred in the Czech Republic (9%).

Graph 1: Evolution of gas prices in national currency for households (standard consumer D3) between January 2006 and January 2007 (in %)



For industrial consumers, the largest price increases between January 2006 and January 2007 occurred in the three Baltic countries: Lithuania (35%), Latvia (31%) and in Estonia (30%). As for households, prices went down in the Czech Republic (13%).

Graph 2: Evolution of the gas prices in national currency for industrial consumers (standard consumer I3-1) between January 2006 and January 2007 (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.

Gas Prices January 2006 – January 2007

Table 1: Gas prices for households: January 2006 – January 2007 (in national currency per GJ)

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

| | EU-27 | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | ES | FR | IT | LV | LT |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| January 2006 | 12.92 | 13.50 | 15.06 | 287.97 | 222.50 | 15.98 | 72.52 | 12.51 | 13.63 | 12.72 | 16.50 | 3.72 | 21.54 |
| January 2007 | 14.95 | 12.89 | 17.28 | 263.19 | 229.90 | 18.45 | 92.13 | 16.73 | 14.23 | 13.46 | 18.34 | 5.23 | 24.32 |
| | LU | HU | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | SE | UK | HR | |
| January 2006 | 10.33 | 1324.23 | 16.92 | 15.65 | 36.15 | 14.52 | 27.92 | 12.92 * | 408.00 | 241.60 | 5.65 | 60.32 | |
| January 2007 | 11.52 | 1817.81 | 18.42 | 15.99 | 41.48 | 13.88 | 30.70 | 13.86 | 399.00 | 241.30 | 7.80 | 60.32 | |

* Price in euro to enable the comparison with the 2007 price. The rate applied is SIT 239.64 for EUR 1.00.

Table 1 illustrates the trend in household gas prices between 1 January 2006 and 1 January 2007 for EU27 Member States and Croatia.

This shows that gas prices for household consumers went up in 18 Member States and down in five. They remained unchanged in Croatia.

The highest increases were observed in Latvia (41%), the UK (38%) and Hungary (37%) while the largest decrease occurred in the Czech Republic (9%).

The price increases are mainly due to an increase in the basic price. However, the VAT rate increased in Hungary and Germany from 15% to 20% and from 16% to 19% respectively.

The EU-27 gas price for households (this aggregate is weighted by 2005 national consumption) shows an increase of 16 % between January 2006 and January 2007.

Similar increases (between 11% and 18%) have been observed for the other standard consumers.

Table 2 : Gas prices for industrial consumers : January 2006 – January 2007 (in national currency per GJ)

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

| | EU-27 | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | ES | FR | IT | LV | LT |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|------|-------|
| January 2006 | 8.62 | 7.11 | 8.81 | 210.84 | 52.00 | 11.58 | 44.51 | : | 7.24 | 8.25 | 7.64 | 2.82 | 15.38 |
| January 2007 | 9.40 | 7.03 | 10.20 | 182.72 | 48.60 | 13.27 | 57.75 | : | 7.07 | 7.83 | 8.98 | 3.69 | 20.79 |
| | LU | HU | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | FI | SE | UK | HR |
| January 2006 | 9.01 | 2049.93 | 9.37 | 10.82 | 25.85 | 7.63 | 22.72 | 7.96 * | 287.00 | 7.79 | 114.20 | 6.32 | 50.79 |
| January 2007 | 9.85 | 2462.00 | 9.74 | 11.06 | 29.27 | 7.76 | 24.83 | 8.13 | 278.00 | 8.09 | 110.90 | 7.20 | 50.79 |

* Price in euro to enable the comparison with the 2007 price. The rate applied is SIT 239.64 for EUR 1.00.

Table 2 illustrates the trend for industrial gas prices between 1 January 2006 and 1 January 2007 for EU27 Member States (except Ireland, which did not report data for the standard consumer I3-1) and for Croatia.

This shows that gas prices for household consumers went up in 16 Member States and down in seven of them. They remained unchanged in Croatia.

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

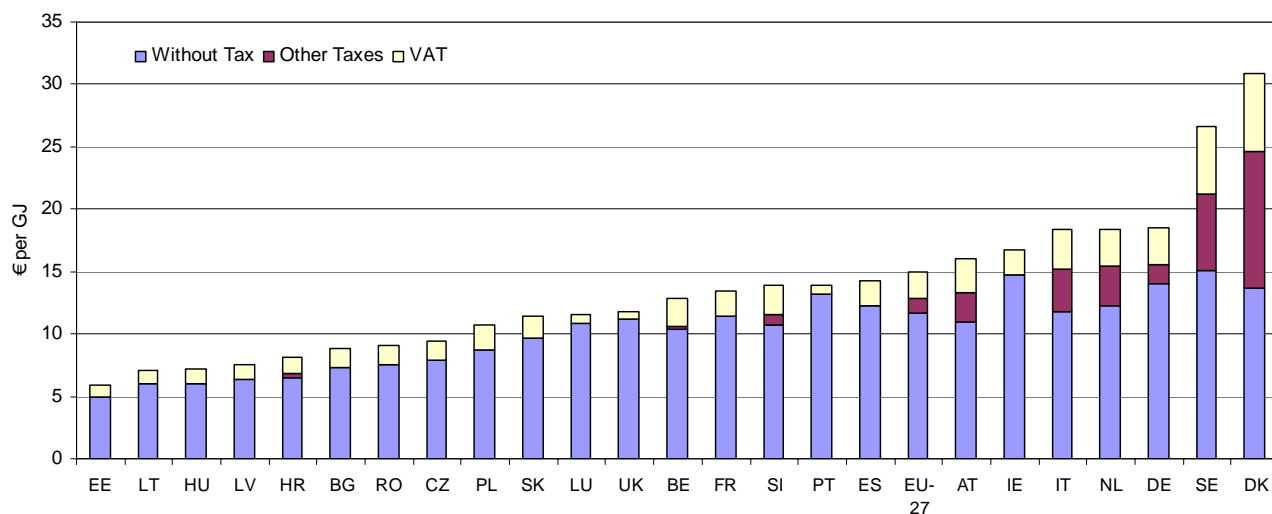
The EU-27 gas price for industrial consumers (this aggregate is weighted by 2005 national consumption) shows an increase of 9% between January 2006 and January 2007.

Similar increases (between 8% and 13%) can also be observed for the other standard consumers.

Composition of the gas prices

Graph 3 : Composition of the gas prices for household consumers on 1 January 2007 (in euro per GJ)

Standard consumer D3: annual consumption of 83.7 GJ



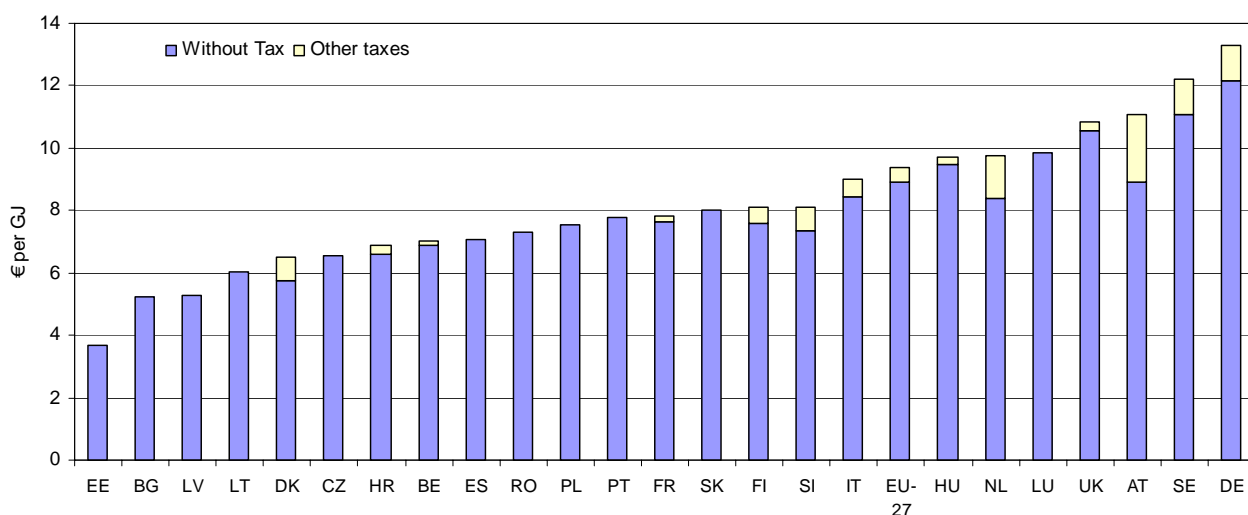
For household consumers, gas prices on 1 January 2007 were highest in Denmark and Sweden, more than EUR 30 and EUR 25 per GJ respectively.

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

As of 1 January 2007 the EU-27 price (this price is weighted by 2005 annual national consumption for the household sector) is EUR 14.95 per GJ.

Graph 4 : Composition of the gas prices for industrial consumers on 1 January 2007 (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 January 2007 were highest in Germany, Sweden and Austria.

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

As of 1 January 2007 the EU-27 price (weighted by 2005 annual national consumption for the industrial sector) is EUR 9.40 per GJ.

Share of taxes in the final prices

Table 3: Share of taxes in gas prices as of 1 January 2007

Standard consumer D3, annual consumption of 83.7 GJ

Standard consumer I3-1, annual consumption of 41.86 TJ

Share of taxes in the household prices :

| | Basic price | Other taxes | V.A.T | All Taxes |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| | in € per GJ | | | in % |
| PT | 13.22 | 0.00 | 0.66 | 4.8 |
| UK | 11.20 | 0.00 | 0.56 | 4.8 |
| LU | 10.87 | 0.00 | 0.65 | 5.6 |
| IE | 14.74 | 0.00 | 1.99 | 11.9 |
| ES | 12.27 | 0.00 | 1.96 | 13.8 |
| FR | 11.42 | 0.00 | 2.04 | 15.2 |
| LT | 5.97 | 0.00 | 1.07 | 15.2 |
| EE | 4.99 | 0.00 | 0.90 | 15.3 |
| LV | 6.35 | 0.00 | 1.15 | 15.3 |
| CZ | 7.94 | 0.00 | 1.51 | 16.0 |
| RO | 7.60 | 0.00 | 1.45 | 16.0 |
| SK | 9.64 | 0.00 | 1.84 | 16.0 |
| HU | 5.97 | 0.00 | 1.19 | 16.6 |
| BG | 7.36 | 0.00 | 1.47 | 16.6 |
| PL | 8.76 | 0.00 | 1.93 | 18.1 |
| BE | 10.33 | 0.31 | 2.25 | 19.9 |
| HR | 6.43 | 0.37 | 1.38 | 21.4 |
| EU-27 | 11.68 | 1.18 | 2.09 | 21.9 |
| SI | 10.75 | 0.80 | 2.31 | 22.4 |
| DE | 13.97 | 1.53 | 2.95 | 24.3 |
| AT | 10.98 | 2.34 | 2.67 | 31.3 |
| NL | 12.30 | 3.18 | 2.94 | 33.2 |
| IT | 11.79 | 3.43 | 3.12 | 35.7 |
| SE | 15.09 | 6.17 | 5.32 | 43.2 |
| DK | 13.64 | 11.03 | 6.17 | 55.8 |

Share of taxes in the industry prices :

| | Basic price | Other taxes | Taxes |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | in € per GJ | | in % |
| EE | 3.69 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| BG | 5.22 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| LV | 5.29 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| LT | 6.02 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| CZ | 6.56 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| ES | 7.07 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| RO | 7.32 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| PL | 7.54 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| PT | 7.76 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| SK | 8.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| LU | 9.85 | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| BE | 6.89 | 0.14 | 2.0 |
| HU | 9.48 | 0.22 | 2.3 |
| FR | 7.63 | 0.20 | 2.6 |
| UK | 10.55 | 0.30 | 2.8 |
| HR | 6.58 | 0.31 | 4.5 |
| EU-27 | 8.89 | 0.51 | 5.4 |
| IT | 8.46 | 0.52 | 5.8 |
| FI | 7.61 | 0.48 | 5.9 |
| DE | 12.15 | 1.12 | 8.4 |
| SE | 11.06 | 1.15 | 9.4 |
| SI | 7.33 | 0.80 | 9.8 |
| DK | 5.77 | 0.75 | 11.5 |
| NL | 8.40 | 1.34 | 13.8 |
| AT | 8.91 | 2.15 | 19.4 |

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 lowest in Portugal and the United Kingdom, where a relatively low VAT rate 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 (6%)

The highest taxes are charged in Denmark where more than half of the final price is made up of taxes (56%).

Industrial consumers

As it can be seen from the above table on industrial consumers, 11 EU27 Member States do not charge taxes other than VAT.

A significant proportion of taxes in the final price is observed in Austria, the Netherlands and Denmark, all over 10%.

Prices in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) per GJ

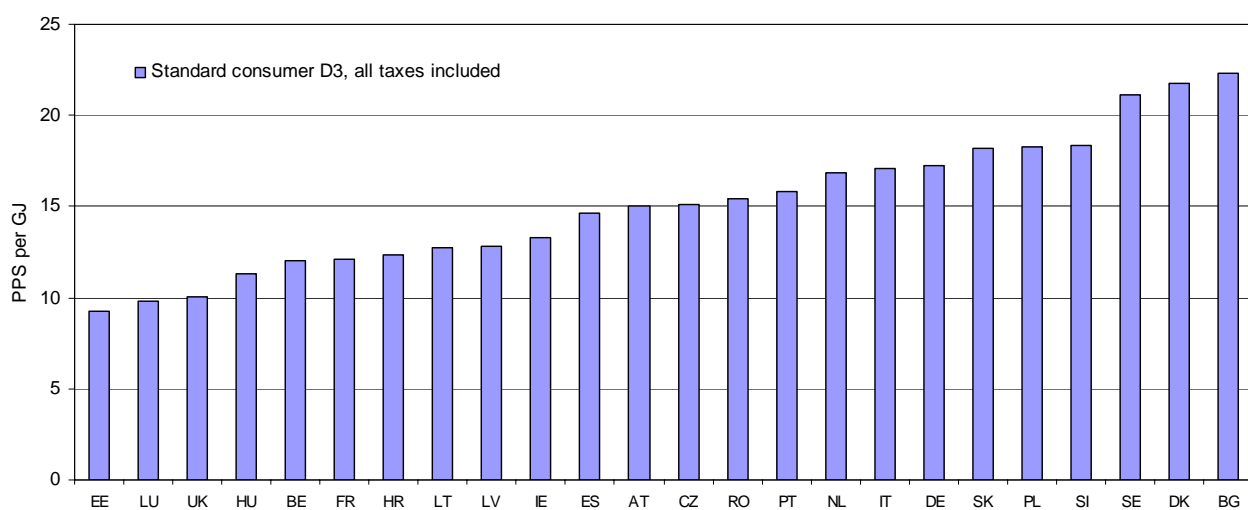
Table 4 : Prices in PPS per GJ (Households : D3, all taxes included ; Industry : I3-1 , without VAT)

| | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | ES | FR | IT | LV | LT | LU |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Households (D3) | 12.03 | 22.32 | 15.10 | 21.74 | 17.27 | 9.23 | 13.29 | 14.61 | 12.07 | 17.09 | 12.82 | 12.74 | 9.79 |
| Industry (I3-1) | 6.56 | 13.18 | 10.48 | 4.60 | 12.42 | 5.79 | : | 7.26 | 7.02 | 8.37 | 9.04 | 10.89 | 8.38 |

| | HU | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | FI | SE | UK | HR |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Households (D3) | 11.33 | 16.88 | 15.00 | 18.31 | 15.84 | 15.39 | 18.38 | 18.17 | : | 21.11 | 10.07 | 12.36 |
| Industry (I3-1) | 15.34 | 8.92 | 10.38 | 12.92 | 8.86 | 12.45 | 10.78 | 12.66 | 6.81 | 9.70 | 9.29 | 10.41 |

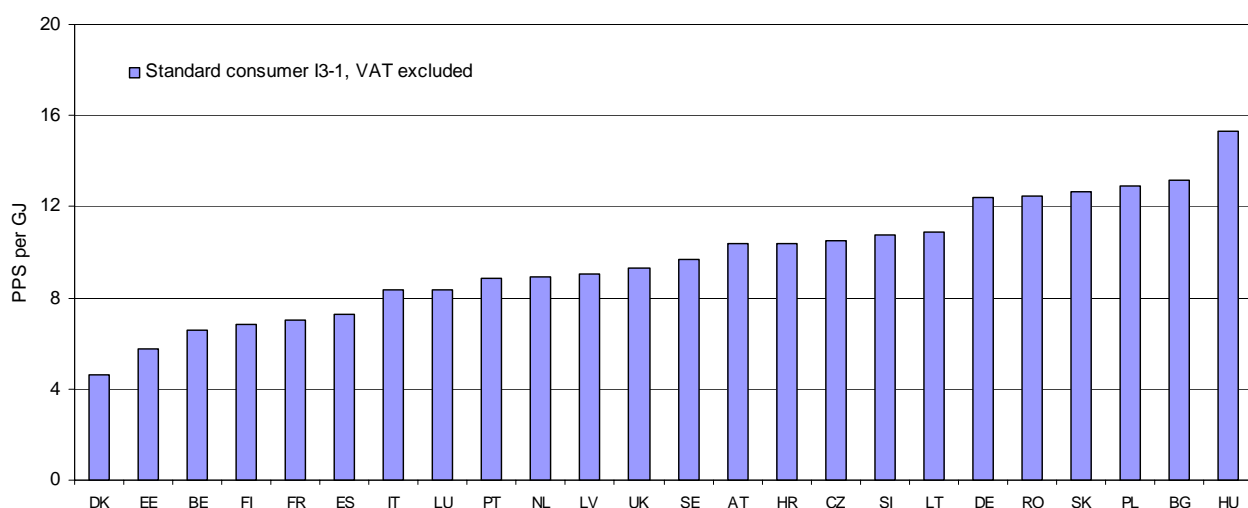
Graph 5: Prices in PPS per GJ for household consumers as of 1 January 2007

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



Graph 6: Prices in PPS per GJ for industrial consumers as of 1 January 2007

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 most expensive in Bulgaria, Denmark and Sweden.

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

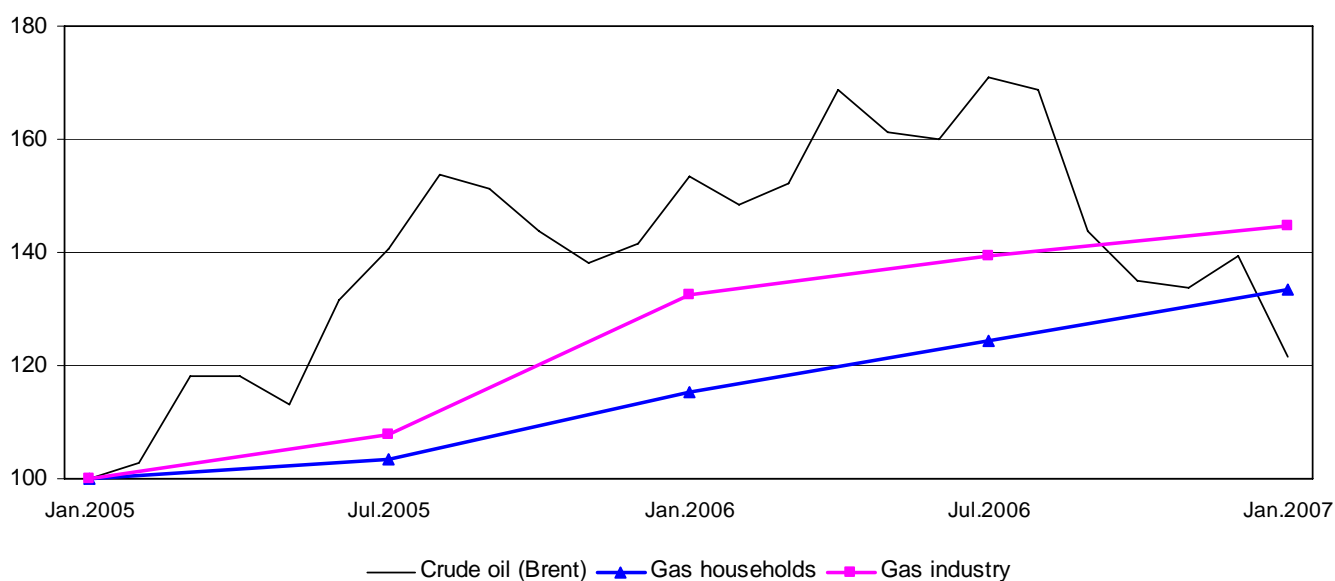
Evolution of the EU-27 gas prices and of the oil prices

Table 5: EU-27 gas prices in euro per GJ (Households : D3, all taxes included; Industry : I3-1, VAT excluded)

| | Jan 2005 | Jul 2005 | Jan 2006 | Jul 2006 | Jan 2007 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Households (D3) | 11.21 | 11.59 | 12.92 | 13.94 | 14.95 |
| Industry (I3-1) | 6.50 | 7.00 | 8.62 | 9.06 | 9.40 |

Graph 7: Trend in EU-27 gas prices compared to the trend in oil price (2005 - 2007)

Index January 2005 = 100



Graph 7 shows the trend in EU27 gas prices for household and industrial consumers over the last two years.

Household consumers

Taking 2005 as a starting point, the average price actually paid by household consumers increased slightly between January and July 2005 (3%). Then it increased more significantly from July 2005 to January 2006.

From January 2006 onwards, an increased of about 1 euro per GJ per semester can be observed.

From January 2005 to January 2007, gas prices for household consumers went up by 33%.

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 slight price increase was observed between January and July 2005.

Then prices went up by 23% from July 2005 to January 2006.

From January 2006 onwards, prices are slightly going up each semester (4-5%).

From January 2005 to January 2007, gas prices for industrial consumers went up by 45%.

IPE BRENT Crude Oil Price

Between January 2005 and July 2006, the IPE Brent crude oil price went up by 71% (from EUR 34 per BBL to EUR 58 per BBL). During this period, the largest increase occurred between May and August 2005 when prices increased by 36%.

From July 2006 to January 2007, prices went down by 29% to reach EUR 41 per BBL.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION - METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Standard Consumers

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

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

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 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).

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/estatref/info/sdds/en/sirene/energy_sm2.htm

Updates of 2006 prices

Updates on gas price data for households and industry on 1 January and on 1 July 2006 have been received for Romania.

EU averages

EU-27 = weighted average for the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland (households only), Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, 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 for 2007) and in euro (average value for January 2007).

Conversion table in PPS and euro

| | | | 1 PPS = | 1 EUR = | | | 1 PPS = | 1 EUR = | |
|------------|----|-------|---------|---------|----------------|----|---------|---------|--------|
| Belgium | BE | (EUR) | 1.07 | 1.00 | Hungary | HU | (HUF) | 160.45 | 253.88 |
| Bulgaria | BG | (BGN) | 0.77 | 1.96 | Netherlands | NL | (EUR) | 1.09 | 1.00 |
| Czech Rep. | CZ | (CZK) | 17.43 | 27.84 | Austria | AT | (EUR) | 1.07 | 1.00 |
| Denmark | DK | (DKK) | 10.57 | 7.45 | Poland | PL | (PLN) | 2.27 | 3.88 |
| Germany | DE | (EUR) | 1.07 | 1.00 | Portugal | PT | (EUR) | 0.88 | 1.00 |
| Estonia | EE | (EEK) | 9.98 | 15.65 | Romania | RO | (ROL) | 1.99 | 3.39 |
| Ireland | IE | (EUR) | 1.26 | 1.00 | Slovenia | SI | (SIT) | 0.75 | 1.00 |
| Spain | ES | (EUR) | 0.97 | 1.00 | Slovakia | SK | (SKK) | 21.96 | 34.75 |
| France | FR | (EUR) | 1.12 | 1.00 | Finland | FI | (EUR) | 1.19 | 1.00 |
| Italy | IT | (EUR) | 1.07 | 1.00 | Sweden | SE | (SEK) | 11.43 | 9.08 |
| Latvia | LV | (LVL) | 0.41 | 0.70 | United Kingdom | UK | (GBP) | 0.77 | 0.66 |
| Lithuania | LT | (LTR) | 1.91 | 3.45 | Croatia | HR | (HRK) | 4.88 | 7.37 |
| Luxembourg | LU | (EUR) | 1.18 | 1.00 | | | | | |

Further information:

Reference publications

Title [Gas and electricity market statistics data 1990-2006](#)
Catalogue No KS-76-06-289-EN-C
Price 25 EUR

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Environment and energy/Gas - domestic consumers - half-yearly prices](#)

[EUROSTAT Website/Environment and energy/Gas - industrial consumers - half-yearly prices](#)

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