

# Fuel price commentary

It doesn't take much to push up the price of crude oil as recent events have proved once again. It's a familiar recipe. Take some increased instability in a troubled part of the world, mix it with a little political posturing by some of the world's leading powers, add a couple of provocative acts – in this case some attacks on oil tankers and an important Saudi Arabian oil refinery – and you have the perfect conditions to send the crude price soaring.

Fortunately, the effect this time seems to have been both short lived and limited in effect. That's because other factors that

affect the price are pushing it down rather than up. The global economy has slowed, choking demand for crude, while American production is booming, so availability is good and prices on world markets have slipped back after a small autumnal spike. This means that while heating oil prices in GB have crept up recently, there's reason to hope that this will just be a temporary blip.

Alongside the slight increase in average annual oil heating cost, prices for some other technologies have fallen. Many British households will see lower gas and electricity

prices from October after the regulator, Ofgem, lowered price caps. The new cap could see these households typically pay around £70 less a year. Conversely, solid fuels have gone up in price.

In the Republic of Ireland, prices have been largely static, but in Northern Ireland some prices do not appear to have followed the trends seen in the rest of GB. For example, electricity prices have risen, while in GB they have gone down, emphasising that, to some extent, regional factors can also influence the prices households pay.

## Comparative space and water heating costs for a three-bedroomed home in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

### GREAT BRITAIN

	Average: Oct 15-Oct19	October 18	October 19	Price change	% difference
Anthracite Grains	1145	1127	<b>1209</b>	82	7.28%
Electricity (Economy 7)	1842	2069	<b>2088</b>	19	0.92%
Gas (British Gas – condensing)	996	1036	<b>1016</b>	-20	-1.93%
LPG	1858	2003	<b>1933</b>	-70	-3.49%
LPG (condensing)	1530	1647	<b>1590</b>	-57	-3.46%
Oil	1173	1439	<b>1356</b>	-83	-5.77%
Oil (condensing)	962	1178	<b>1110</b>	-68	-5.77%
Wood Pellets	1420	1548	<b>1491</b>	-57	-3.68%
Air source heat pump radiators	1642	1805	<b>1835</b>	30	1.66%
Air source heat pump underfloor	1392	1380	<b>1404</b>	24	1.74%

### NORTHERN IRELAND

	Average: Oct 15-Oct19	October 18	October 19	Price change	% difference
Anthracite Grains	988	987	<b>1047</b>	60	6.08%
Electricity (Economy 7)	1597	1650	<b>1924</b>	274	16.61%
Gas (Phoenix – condensing)	928	968	<b>1050</b>	82	8.47%
LPG	2414	2629	<b>2708</b>	79	3.00%
LPG (condensing)	1980	2155	<b>2219</b>	64	2.97%
Oil	1131	1436	<b>1326</b>	-110	-7.66%
Oil (condensing)	927	1165	<b>1086</b>	-79	-6.78%
Wood Pellets	1116	1144	<b>1104</b>	-40	-3.50%
Air source heat pump radiators	1496	1524	<b>1686</b>	162	10.63%
Air source heat pump underfloor	1232	1150	<b>1271</b>	121	10.52%

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	Average: Oct 15-Oct19	October 18	October 19	Price change	% difference
Anthracite Peas	1551	1628	<b>1628</b>	0	0.00%
Electricity (Urban Night Saver)	2048	2153	<b>2194</b>	41	1.90%
Gas (Bord Gais condensing)	1345	1399	<b>1431</b>	32	2.29%
LPG	2691	2792	<b>2986</b>	194	6.95%
LPG (condensing)	2215	2296	<b>2454</b>	158	6.88%
Oil	1584	1951	<b>1834</b>	-117	-6.00%
Oil (condensing)	1297	1594	<b>1499</b>	-95	-5.96%
Wood Pellets	1350	1394	<b>1400</b>	6	0.43%
Air source heat pump radiators	1799	1890	<b>1919</b>	29	1.53%
Air source heat pump underfloor	1490	1496	<b>1509</b>	13	0.87%

Notes. The tables above are based on quarterly data published by the Sutherland Tables. They show the annual average cost of a range of heating options for a typical pre-1980 three bedroomed semi-detached home with a heat requirement of approximately 16,000 kWh. Prices are shown in pounds sterling (£) for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and euros (€) for the Republic of Ireland.