

10 Questions & 10 Answers

Natural Gas Tariffs and Prices

from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026

1. What are natural gas tariffs and prices?

ERSE - Entidade Reguladora dos Serviços Energéticos (Energy Services Regulatory Authority) approves the tariffs and prices for the natural gas sector every year by 1 June¹, which will be in force from 1 October of that year until 30 September of the following year. This approval is preceded by a proposal presented by ERSE, by 31 March, to the Tariff Council, for an opinion, and to a set of entities provided for in the regulations, for comments.

The **regulated tariffs** recover the allowed revenues defined by ERSE for the regulated activities of the natural gas sector. Of particular note are the tariffs for supply to end-customers, paid by customers in the regulated market, and the Network Access tariffs, which represent a portion of the supply bill for all consumers, whether in the regulated or liberalised market.

The **prices of regulated services** are associated with mandatory services (for example, restoring the natural gas supply or carrying out an extraordinary reading) and are paid for by the consumers who request them.

¹ In 2025, 1 June is a Sunday, which is why publication can take place until the following day.

2. What is the timetable for approving natural gas tariffs?

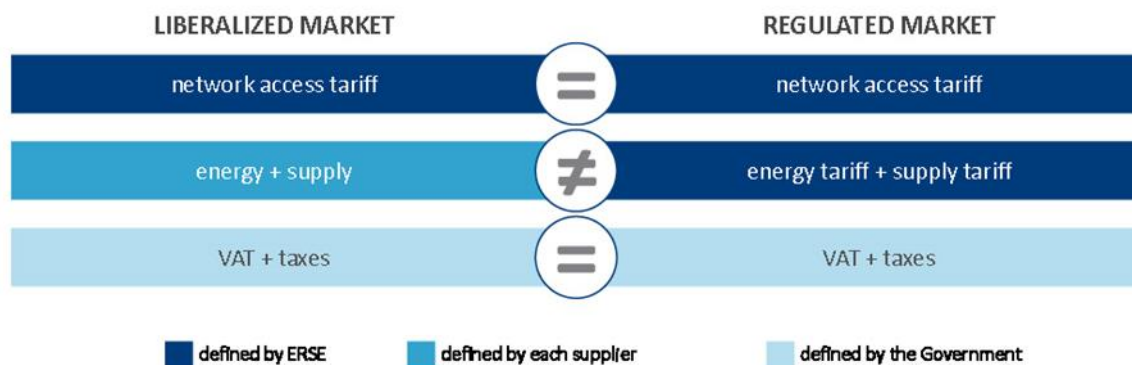
The process of setting tariffs and prices takes place annually for each gas year (from 1 October to 30 September), according to the schedule below.



ERSE submits the proposal for tariffs and prices by 31 March to the Tariff Council and to a number of entities provided for in the regulations. ERSE approves and publishes the tariffs and prices for natural gas by 1 June each year, which will come into force on 1 October.

3. What is the difference between the regulated market and the liberalised market?

The prices of Network Access tariffs and fees and taxes are identical in the liberalised and regulated markets. Only the energy and supply component differs in that, in the liberalised market, each retail supplier sets its own prices depending on demand, supply costs and competition. ERSE approves the Network Access tariffs applicable to all consumers, as well as the tariffs for supply to end-customers applicable to customers in the regulated market, which include, in addition to the Network Access tariffs, the regulated energy and supply tariffs.



The natural gas sector in Portugal is based on a liberalised market model that seeks to achieve the benefits of competition for consumers, in terms of choice of offers and retail suppliers, better prices and services and more innovation.

In the overall retail market, the latest figures for the liberalised market, from February 2025, point to around 1.129 million consumers in the liberalised market (out of a total of 1.569 million customers). Consumption in the liberalised market represents around 95.5% of total consumption in Portugal.

The customers still in the regulated market are essentially small businesses (39 per cent of consumption and 44 per cent of customers in this segment) and domestic customers (30 per cent of consumption and 27 per cent of consumers in this segment).

4. What impact does the tariff decision have on regulated market customers?

For customers supplied by a retail supplier in the regulated market, prices for supply to end-customers are approved by ERSE. For a consumption of less than or equal to 10 000 m³/year, essentially domestic consumers, there is a tariff variation of +1.5 per cent compared to the 2024-2025 gas year.

The impact on the natural gas bill for the most representative types of domestic customers, compared to the prices in force in September 2025, is as follows:

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL, AS OF OCTOBER 2025

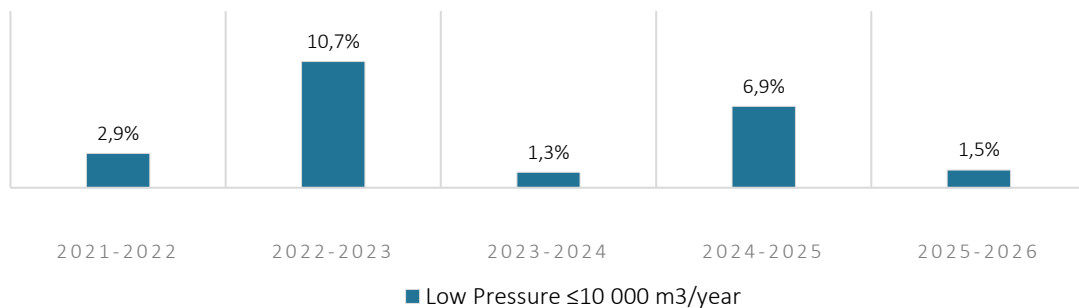
Couple without children (1 st consumption level, consumption 1 610 kWh/year)	16.38 €
Couple with two children (2 nd consumption level, consumption 3 407 kWh/year)	30.73 €

AVERAGE VARIATION COMPARED TO THE BILL IN SEPTEMBER 2025

Couple without children (1 st consumption level, consumption 1 610 kWh/year)	0.36 €
Couple with two children (2 nd consumption level, consumption 3 407 kWh/year)	0.21 €

Note: Figures for mainland Portugal include taxes and charges.

With this tariff decision, the tariff for supply to end-customers will see an **average annual variation of +4.6 per cent** over five years. Around 440 000 consumers who remained in the regulated market at the end of February 2025 are subject to these changes.



5. What impact does the tariff decision have on liberalised market customers?

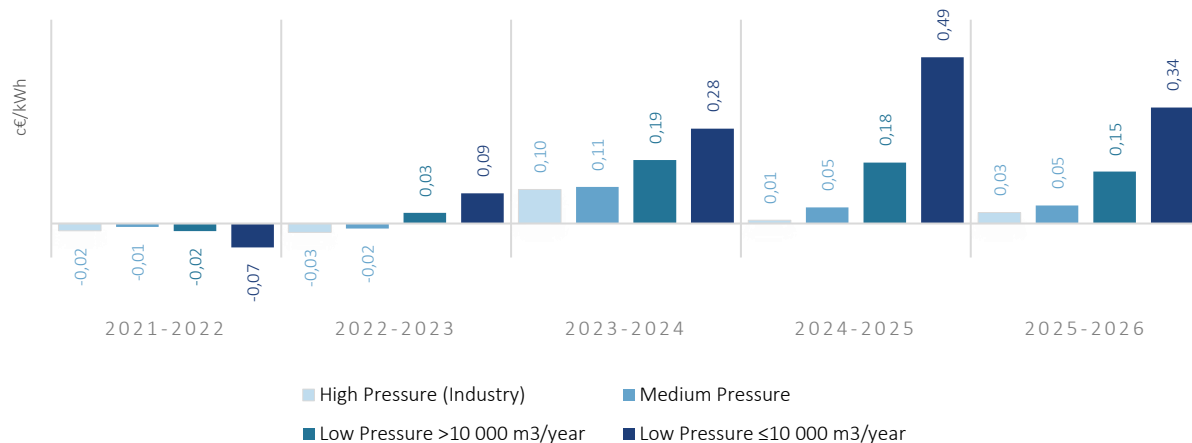
For customers supplied by a retail supplier in the liberalised market, prices for supply to end-customers vary between retail suppliers and depend on the commercial offer contracted by the customer.

However, the tariffs regulated by ERSE for the use of infrastructures and services shared by all consumers - the so-called Network Access tariffs - affect the prices charged by retail suppliers, since they are applied directly to them, in turn passing them on to final consumers in the supply invoices. This is why retail

suppliers normally review their prices in October, the month in which the new Network Access tariff prices come into force.

In the case of low-pressure consumers with consumption of less than or equal to 10 000 m³/year, which includes domestic consumers, the variation in Network Access Tariffs will imply increases of 0.34 euro cent per kilowatt-hour (c€/kWh).

For non-domestic consumers, connected to High Pressure (Industry), Medium Pressure and Low Pressure with consumption of more than 10 000 m³/year, the variation in Network Access tariffs is estimated at increases between 0.03 and 0.15 euro cents per kilowatt-hour (c€/kWh). The following figure illustrates the annual variations in Network Access tariffs between the 2021-2022 gas year and the 2025-2026 gas year, for the different pressure levels.



The increases in Network Access tariffs have an impact on the prices for supply to end-customers in the liberalised market, before taxes and fees, corresponding in percentage terms to an increase of 0.7 per cent for supplies in High Pressure and an increase of 1.5 per cent for supplies in Medium Pressure and Low Pressure >10 000 m³/year. For Low Pressure ≤10 000 m³/year, the average impact of the variation in Network Access tariffs on prices for supply to end-customers in the liberalised market corresponds to an increase of 4.6 per cent.

Average impact of network access tariffs on liberalised market prices

Impact of Network Access Tariffs	Impact on the liberalised market
Customers in High Pressure (> 50 million m ³ /year)*	+0.7%
Customers in Medium and Low Pressure (> 10 000 m ³ /year)	+1.5%
Customers in Low Pressure (≤ 10 000 m ³ /year)	+4.6%

(*) The consumption threshold is indicative.

The variation in prices for supply to end-customers in the liberalized market depends, in addition to the variation in Network Access tariffs, on the variation in energy prices and the margin of each retail supplier. The impacts of Network Access tariffs shown in the table above could therefore be mitigated by decreases in energy prices, in line with the outlook for the regulated market.

6. What changes for social tariff customers?

Economically vulnerable consumers are entitled to the social tariff discount on natural gas supplies. The discount is the same for all consumers, whether they are on the regulated market or the liberalised market, since the discount is applied to the Network Access tariff. In addition, economically vulnerable customers benefit from an exemption from the Tax on Natural Gas Petroleum Products.

In the 2025-2026 gas year, consumers with a social tariff will continue to benefit from a discount of 31.2 per cent, determined on the basis of the regulated tariff for supply to end-customers. The following table illustrates the social discount on the monthly bill of customers with a social tariff I.

SOCIAL DISCOUNT ON THE AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL, AS OF OCTOBER 2025	
Couple without children (1 st consumption level, consumption 1 610 kWh/year)	6.81 €

Couple with two children (2 nd consumption level, consumption 3 407 kWh/year)	13.01 €
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Note: Figures for mainland Portugal, including taxes and fees.

7. What are the main factors determining the variation in tariffs?

The variation in tariffs is essentially the result of a combination of two factors: (i) a reduction in natural gas purchase costs; and (ii) an increase in Network Access tariffs.

The costs of purchasing natural gas for last resort suppliers (LRS) are falling, compared to those implicit in the tariffs currently in force, with the effect of reducing the regulated Energy tariff. The price of gas for the LRS is conditioned by historical long-term *take-or-pay* contracts, prior to the opening of the market, between Galp and Nigeria, varying in part with the price of oil (Brent). In this regard, it should be noted that, in relation to the tariff proposal, the price of natural gas purchased by the LRS is expected to fall by around 9 per cent, as a result of the fall in the price of oil on the futures markets in the meantime.

At the same time, there has been an increase in Network Access tariffs applied in the regulated and liberalised markets, mainly due to a significant reduction in gas demand that has been ongoing since 2021.

The reduction in gas demand stems from cyclical effects, such as the increase in the price of gas on the wholesale markets that supply the liberalised market, and from structural effects resulting from the energy transition aimed at decarbonising the economy. The national energy policy, set out in the PNEC 2030, is geared towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from burning fossil fuels such as natural gas. To this end, public policies have promoted greater energy efficiency, the expansion of renewable energy sources, bioenergy², intelligent energy systems, among other innovative solutions, with a view to an economically viable, inclusive and socially just energy transition.

Network access tariffs mainly recover the allowed revenues from the operation of the National Gas Sector's infrastructure, which is largely associated with fixed costs. Thus, a decrease in demand for gas in these infrastructures contributes to an increase in costs per unit of natural gas consumed and a similar variation in the respective tariffs.

² This includes biomethane as a direct substitute for natural gas, green hydrogen, carbon capture and storage processes.

The 2025-2026 gas year presents some uncertainty, given the ongoing geopolitical instability resulting from the war in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Hamas, which has a major impact on natural gas prices. To this uncertainty must also be added the structural effects of the process of decarbonising the economy on gas demand and, consequently, on Network Access tariffs.

8. What is the revenue to be recovered through tariffs?


The following table shows the revenues to be recovered through tariffs for the various regulated activities.

	Gas-year revenues 2025-2026	Gas-year revenues 2024-2025	Annual variation
	thousand EUR	thousand EUR	%
(a) LNG reception, storage and regasification	24 786	27 303	- 9,2%
(b) Underground gas storage	21 077	20 163	4,5%
(c) Gas transport	70 657	74 971	- 5,8%
(d) Global Technical System Management	33 169	28 865	14,9%
(e) Gas distribution	254 521	236 739	7,5%
Income recovered by the Tariffs for the Use of Infrastructures and Global Use of the System. (a) + (b) + (c) + (d) + (e)	404 212	388 042	4,2%
Purchase and sale of gas	28 951	28 750	0,7%
Gas commercialisation	13 660	12 085	13,0%

The increase in allowed revenues recovered by the Use of Infrastructure and Global Use of the System tariffs in the 2025-2026 gas year is 4.2 per cent, representing an increase of around 16 million euros compared to the 2024-2025 gas year.

9. How can I save on my natural gas bill?

The entry into force of the new regulated tariffs on 1 October means that retail suppliers in the liberalised market normally review their prices in October each year. October is therefore a good time to compare the commercial offers available, using the various simulators available on the internet. ERSE also offers an



[energy price simulator](#), which compares electricity and natural gas commercial offers for residential customers and small businesses. You can also consult ERSE's bulletins for the natural gas sector on [commercial offers](#) and the [liberalised market \(only in Portuguese\)](#).

Natural gas consumers should assess whether, in their case, it is more advantageous to have separate contracts for electricity and natural gas or to have a joint contract for the two energies.

10. Where can I find more information?

Visit ERSE's [website](#) to access a range of information, including (some content is only available in Portuguese):

- [Complementary tariff documents](#).
- [ERSE's energy price simulator](#), which compares electricity and natural gas commercial offers for residential customers and small businesses.
- Natural gas sector bulletins on [commercial offers](#) and the [liberalised market](#).
- An [interactive module](#) on how the natural gas sector works.
- An [educational video](#) on how natural gas prices are calculated.

Lisbon, 2nd June 2025