Press release

ERSE approves new electricity time-of-use periods for mainland Portugal

ERSE – the Energy Services Regulatory Authority – has approved, following a public consultation process, the new time-of-use periods applicable to electricity tariffs in mainland Portugal for the nearly 500 thousand domestic consumers with a two- or a three-period tariff option, and for the nearly 70 thousand business and industrial customers with a four-period tariff.

The change aims to bring the time periods into line with evolving patterns of electricity consumption and generation – with greater decentralised penetration of renewables – promoting more efficient use of the grids and a better match between the time periods and the actual usage profile of the electricity system. In the long term, this will reduce the need to invest in electricity transmission and distribution networks, thereby lowering network costs for all consumers.

This process is taking place against a backdrop where 99 per cent of standard low voltage customers already have smart meters (according to the 'Progress Report on Smart Electricity Grids in mainland Portugal'), enabling the potential application of the new time periods by all of these consumers.

This update follows a public consultation launched in November 2025, and is supported by the **technical study** accompanying the closing documentation for this consultation. As part of the public consultation, opinions were received from ERSE's Advisory Council and Tariff Council, along with 31 comments from various entities: (i) individuals; (ii) associations representing consumers, suppliers and producers; (iii) suppliers; (iv) large customers; and (v) network operators. ERSE took into consideration all the comments received as part of the public consultation, as well as the contributions resulting from the ConvERSE initiative, held on 16 January 2026, on this subject.

The new time-of-use periods benefit from several simplifications, including the establishment of a uniform daily cycle throughout the year, with no distinction between winter and summer time, and the adoption of a single weekly cycle, thereby discontinuing the optional cycle that previously applied only to very high voltage, high voltage and medium voltage customers.

For standard low voltage customers with the **two-period** tariff option, the start of the valley period is delayed by half an hour in the daily cycle – moving from 22:00 to 22:30 – and by half an hour on working days in the weekly cycle – moving from 00:00 to 00:30. Conversely, the start of the off-valley period is also delayed by half an hour in the daily cycle – moving from 08:00 to 08:30 – and by half an hour on working days of the weekly cycle – moving from 07:00 to 07:30.

For customers with **three-period** (standard low voltage) and **four-period** (special low voltage, medium voltage, high voltage and very high voltage) tariff structures, the main change relates to the scheduling of peak hours primarily at the end of the day, thereby eliminating peak hours in the morning and early afternoon.

The new time-of-use periods **retain the current daily durations** of the peak, half-peak, normal valley and super valley **periods**, as set out in the 'Electricity Sector Tariff Regulation', adjusting only the start and end times of each time of use period so as to align with the use of the electricity networks.

The new time-of-use periods will be **implemented** in phases:

- **On a single date, 1 April 2027, for customers with special low voltage, medium voltage, high voltage and very high voltage installations** (primarily non-residential costumers)
- **Between 1 July and 31 December 2027 for standard low voltage installations with a two- or a three-period tariff option** (residential customers or small businesses)
  This change will take place automatically and will preferably be carried out remotely by the network operator via the smart meter. Should this not be possible – which is expected to occur in only a small number of cases – the change will be made by the network operator technicians visiting the customers' homes.

Although the circa 6 million residential customers on a single-rate tariff will not be affected by the change to the time-of-use periods, their meters will nevertheless be updated so that they can also access time-of-use readings on their meter, based on the new time periods. This will enable them to assess, for their particular circumstances, whether two-period or three- period tariff options are more favourable than the single-rate tariff. This **update will take place over a longer period, between 1 November 2027 and 31 March 2030**. During this period, you may ask your distribution network operator (E-REDES, in most of mainland Portugal) to configure your metering equipment in advance.

ERSE will regularly publish information for consumers on the various phases of the new time-of-use periods' implementation, and will provide tools enabling customers to simulate the potential impacts of this change on their electricity bills. In addition, from the close of the public consultation and throughout the implementation period for the new time of-use periods, ERSE will provide a range of informative and educational resources via various channels. Several materials will be available on the ERSE website, aimed at answering questions from consumers and end customers regarding the application of the new time of-use periods, including tools for comparing and assessing the impact on bills.

Access the ERSExplica – 12 Questions & 12 Answers

Access the Public Consultation

Lisbon, 31 July 2026