

Energy Industry (Industrial Report) - UK - October 2014

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"Although the UK electricity and gas supply market continues to be dominated by the 'big six' energy firms, smaller suppliers have gained market share. Smaller competitors have been successful in attracting customers from the larger players by offering better value prices tariffs or by stressing their green credentials or community involvement as well as continued mistrust in the 'big six.'"

– Claudia Preedy - Industrial Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- How do UK and EU policies affect the development of the energy sector?
- What are the key market issues facing gas and electricity suppliers?
- What are the key reasons for consumers switching energy supplier?
- How have major energy suppliers performed over the last five years?
- What is the potential future energy mix?

The electricity and gas markets in the UK are privatised.

The electricity and gas markets are regulated by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, operating through the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem). Ofgem's role is to protect the interest of consumers by promoting competition where appropriate. Ofgem issues companies with licences to carry out activities in the electricity and gas sectors, sets the levels of return that the monopoly networks companies can make, and decides on changes to market rules.

The most significant change in electricity generation in recent years has been the rise in power supply from renewable sources. Interest in renewable energy in the UK has increased due to new UK and EU targets for reductions in carbon emissions and the promotion of renewable electricity power generation through commercial incentives, such as the Renewable Obligation Certificate scheme (ROCs) and feed in tariffs (FITs) and the promotion of renewable heat through the Renewable Heat Incentive. Hydroelectric schemes were historically the largest producers of renewable electricity in the UK, but these have now been surpassed by wind power schemes, for which the UK has large potential resources.

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