



SUTHERLAND TABLES

COMPARATIVE DOMESTIC HEATING COSTS

Welcome to the April 2014 issue of the Sutherland Tables.

At last, Spring seems to have arrived. Temperatures have started to rise and consumption has fallen.

Heading into Summer, we would expect to see a further decrease in consumption, which would lead to less demand, and potentially a drop in fuel prices. However that remains to be seen.

This quarter, has seen both increases and decreases in various fuel prices, across various regions, with no particular trend showing as such.

Since Last Quarter:

The current Tables figures indicate that, since last quarter, the UK average costs have decreased for Gas, Oil and Electricity. Solid Fuels and LPG prices have remained static, while Wood Pellet prices have increased across all regions.

In Southern Ireland, Oil prices have dropped, while wood pellet prices have increased. Electricity has seen a minor increase, with all other fuel types remaining static.

Electricity prices in Southern regions remained static, while all other regions experienced a small decrease.

Gas prices decreased in all regions, except Northern & Southern Ireland, where they remained static.

Winners in home heating this quarter are consumers who heat their homes with Oil, regardless of where they live, or whether they use a conventional or condensing boiler.

Winners this quarter also include South West & Wales, Midlands and Scotland consumers who heat rooms in existing dwellings with LPG.

Losers in home heating this quarter are those who heat their homes with Wood pellets, regardless of where they live.



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4-year Average:

In terms of the 4-year average figures across all UK regions and Republic of Ireland, most fuel cost trends remain relatively constant. However, this constant trend means that once again, costs remain well above the 4-year average in most cases.

This quarter, Electricity using Night Storage systems show costs almost 16% higher than the 4 year average, for both existing and newer build dwellings in the UK. For Republic of Ireland costs were approximately 10% higher than 4 year average.

On average Gas costs, (conventional or condensing boiler) show costs in excess of 13% higher than the 4 year average for UK and Ireland, for existing dwellings, with a slightly lower percentage for newer build.

Solid fuel and standard electricity show costs in excess of 11% higher than the 4 year average for UK, while for Republic of Ireland costs were approximately 8-9% higher than 4 year average.

However costs of home heating using oil have actually dropped below the 4 year average, in both newer build and existing dwellings in the UK. In Republic of Ireland costs are fairly in line with 4 year averages.

Since Last April:

Comparing fuel costs with figures from last year, UK averages and Republic of Ireland figures indicate a considerable drop in Oil prices, a lesser drop in LPG prices and a rise in the costs of heating using all other fuels.

Wood pellets in UK and Ireland experienced the greatest rise in prices compared with those for the same period last year. Southern Ireland experienced similar levels of increase in other Solid Fuel prices. UK solid fuel prices were also up, however to a lesser extent.

In general, fuel suppliers are still blaming recent price increases on rising wholesale prices and increased running costs, especially for transporting fuels to customers' homes, and the cost of government imposed levies and programmes.