

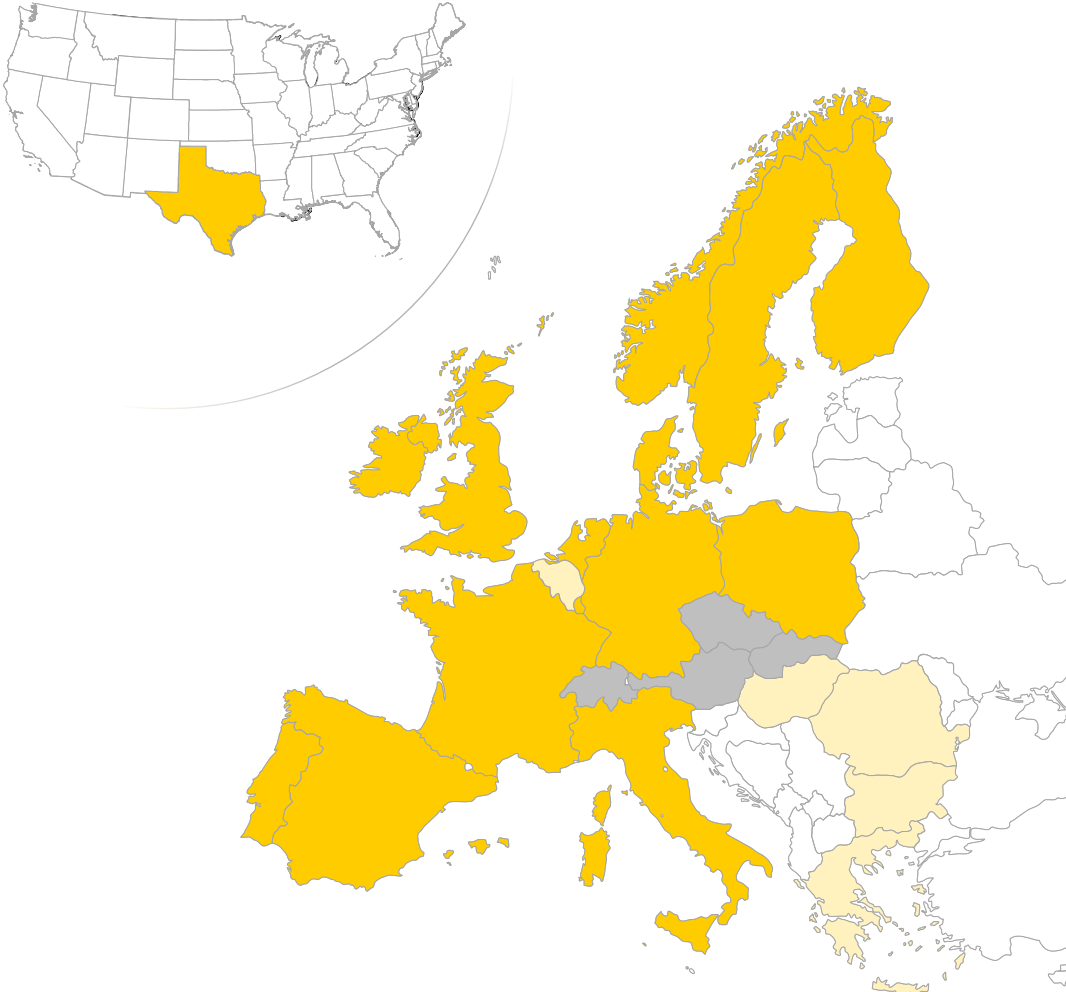
# GB Wholesale Market Summary August 2021

Published September 2021



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# Executive Summary

- Average power prices in August climbed to £106.20/MWh driven by the continued increase in gas and carbon prices, a 12% increase on July
- The UK-ETS traded at an average of £48/tCO<sub>2</sub> in August, a £4/tCO<sub>2</sub> increase relative to July
- Despite a significant drop in Solar generation since July, increases in wind and nuclear generation led to a drop in thermal generation from 57% to 55% of the fuel mix for August
- Consequently, emissions reduced to 3.4 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 15% decrease relative to the month prior
- Much higher wind speeds led to a 52% increase in onshore wind load factors relative to July

	Monthly value <sup>1</sup>	Month-on-month change	Year-on-year change	Slide reference(s)
<b>Power prices</b> £/MWh	106.2	+12.2 (13.0%)	+70.9 (201.1%)	<u>5</u> , <u>6</u>
<b>Gas prices</b> £/MWh	37.2	+6.3 (20.6%)	+30.2 (434.7%)	<u>7</u>
<b>Carbon<sup>2</sup> prices</b> £/tCO <sub>2</sub>	66.1	+2.4 (3.7%)	+24.0 (57.1%)	<u>7</u>
<b>Transmission demand</b> TWh	19.2	-0.5 (2.6%)	+0.3 (1.5%)	<u>10</u>
<b>Low carbon<sup>3</sup> generation</b> TWh	10.0	+0.7 (7.4%)	-0.5 (4.5%)	<u>11</u> , <u>12</u>
<b>Thermal<sup>4</sup> generation</b> TWh	7.5	-1.6 (17.8%)	-1.2 (14.0%)	<u>11</u> , <u>12</u>
<b>Carbon emissions</b> MtCO <sub>2</sub> e	3.4	-0.8 (18.3%)	-0.4 (11.3%)	<u>14</u>
<b>Grid carbon intensity</b> gCO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	208.1	-36.0 (14.7%)	-12.6 (5.7%)	<u>14</u>
<b>Wind load factors<sup>5</sup></b> %	24.1	+8.0 (52.1%)	-3.8 (14.1%)	<u>25</u>
<b>Wind capture prices<sup>5</sup></b> £/MWh	103.0	+14.4 (16.2%)	+69.4 (206.6%)	<u>27</u>

1) Values averaged over the calendar month. 2) Includes CPS and EU-ETS, the UK-ETS auctions commenced in May 2021. 3) Includes renewables and nuclear generation 4) Includes CCGTs, coal and other fossil plants. 5) Onshore wind only

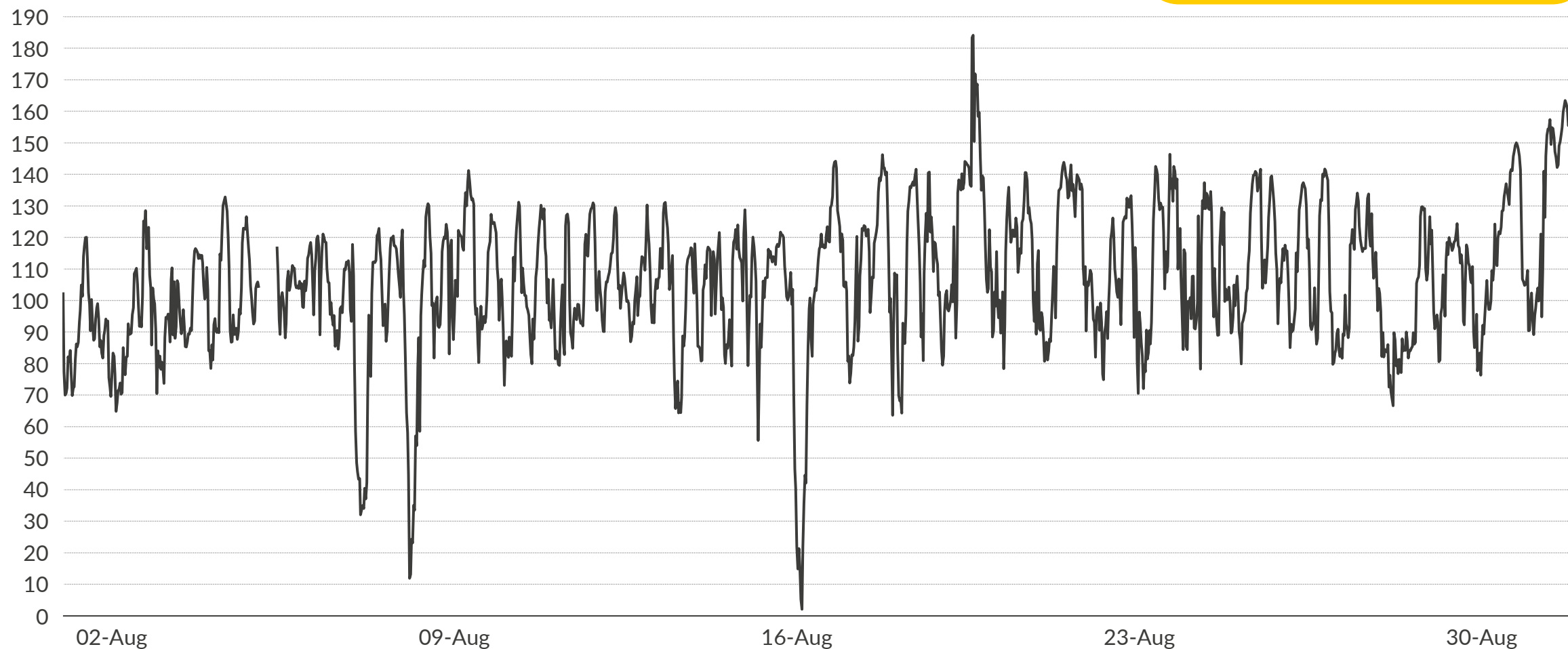
Sources: Aurora Energy Research, Thomson Reuters, National Grid, Ofgem, Elexon

- I. System performance
- II. Company performance (Subscriber only)
- III. Plant performance

# Half-hourly EPEX spot price for August

EPEX spot price<sup>1</sup>  
£/MWh

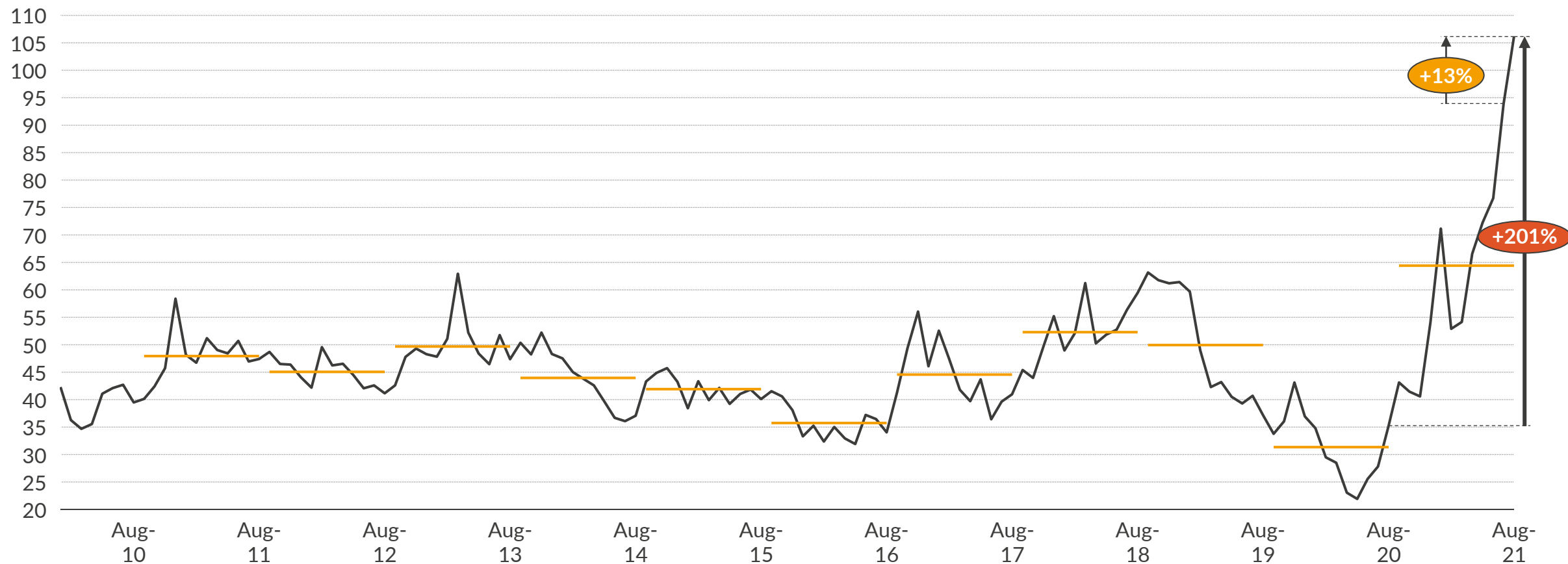
Monthly average price in August 2021:  
106.15 £/MWh



1) Half-hourly EPEX is the volume-weighted reference price over that half-hour interval, as provided by EPEX Spot

# Historic monthly average EPEX spot price

Average EPEX spot price<sup>1</sup>  
£/MWh



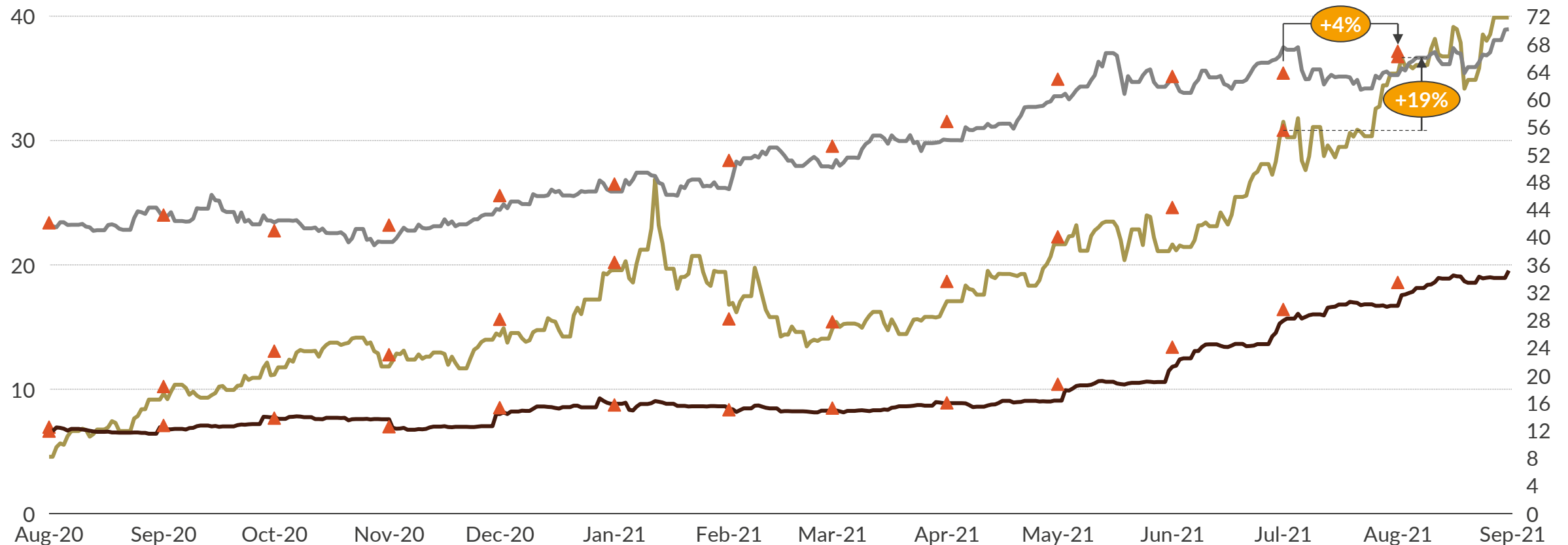
— Average monthly spot price — Annual average spot price (x) Month-on-month difference (average wind) (x) Year-on-year difference (average wind)

1) Average monthly EPEX is the average over the month of the volume-weighted reference prices for each half-hour interval.

# Historic fuel prices

## Gas, Coal and Carbon daily prices

Gas/Coal price  
£/MWh

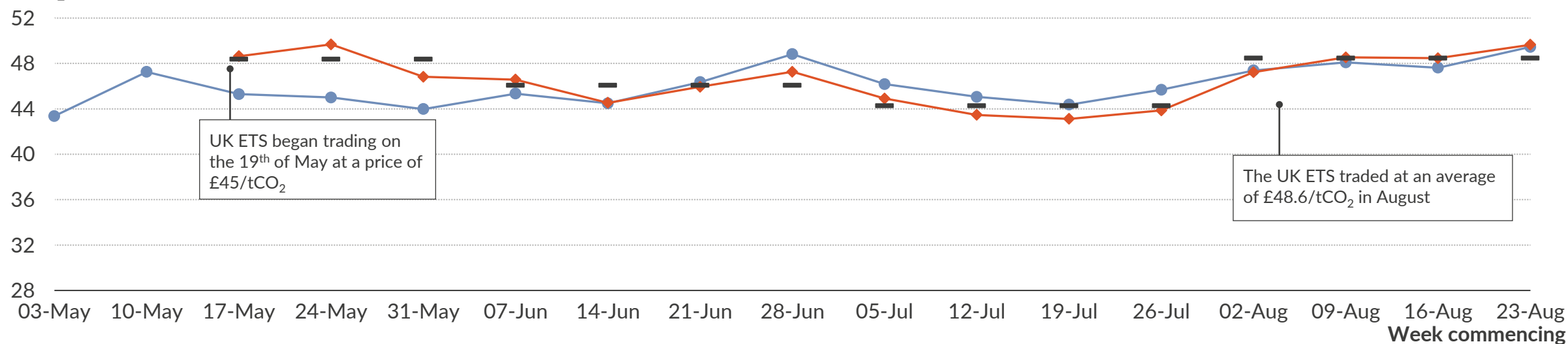


— Gas — Coal — CO2 ▲ Monthly averages (x) Month-on-month difference

1) Includes CPS and EU-ETS until 18th of May 2021, and from 19th of May onwards, includes CPS and UK ETS

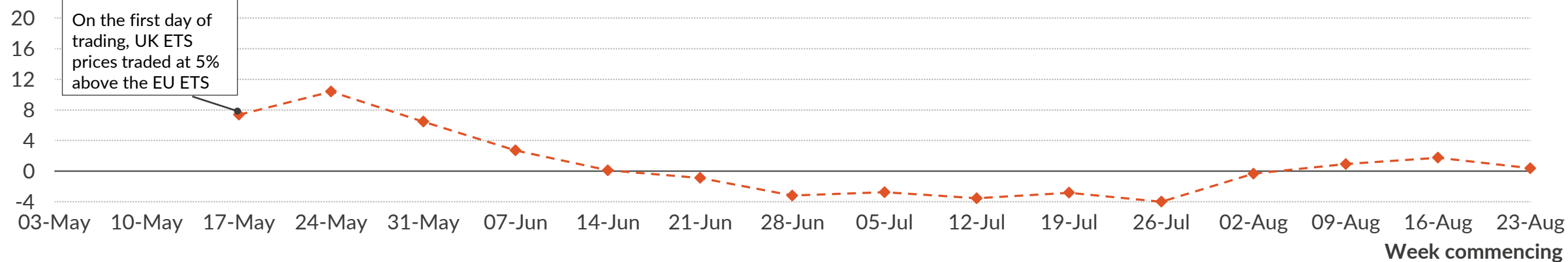
# Historic UK ETS and EU ETS Prices

## Weekly average EU and UK ETS prices

£/tCO<sub>2</sub>

## Relative difference between UK and EU ETS prices

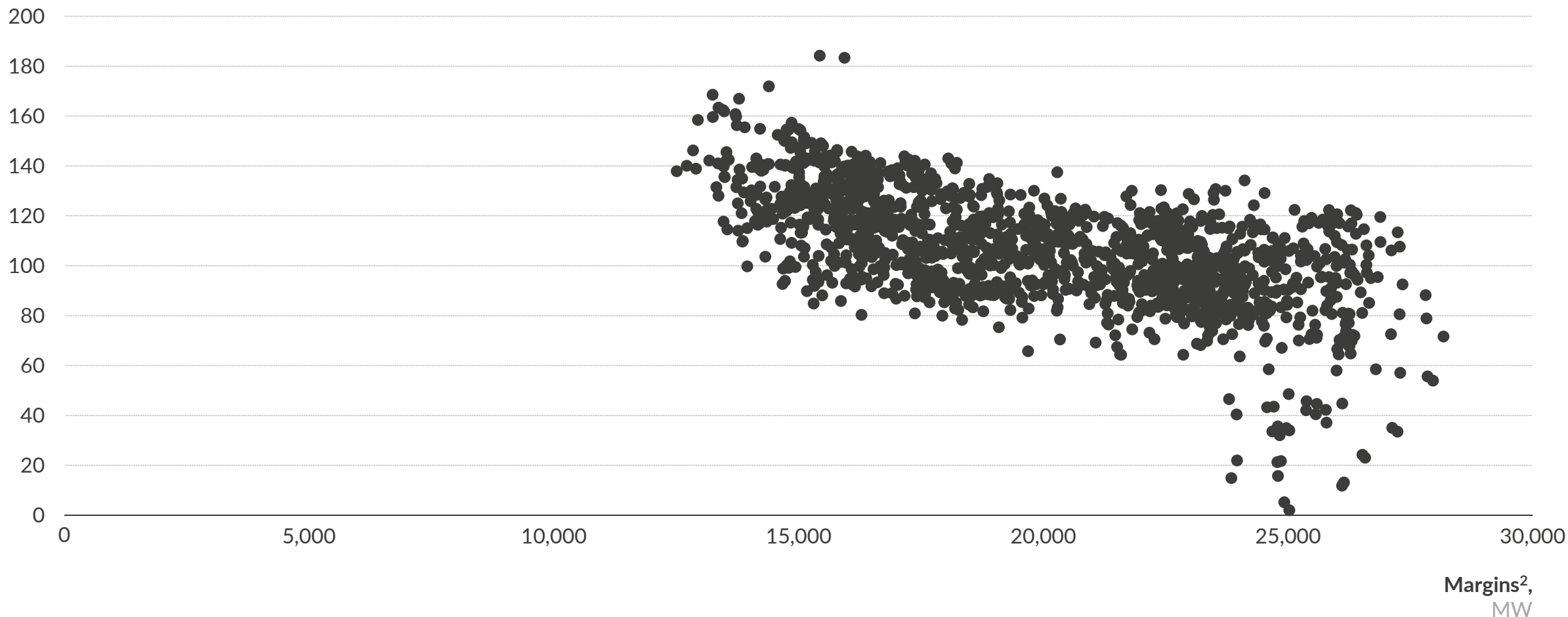
%





# Half-hourly spot prices against half-hourly system margins for August

EPEX spot price<sup>1</sup>  
£/MWh

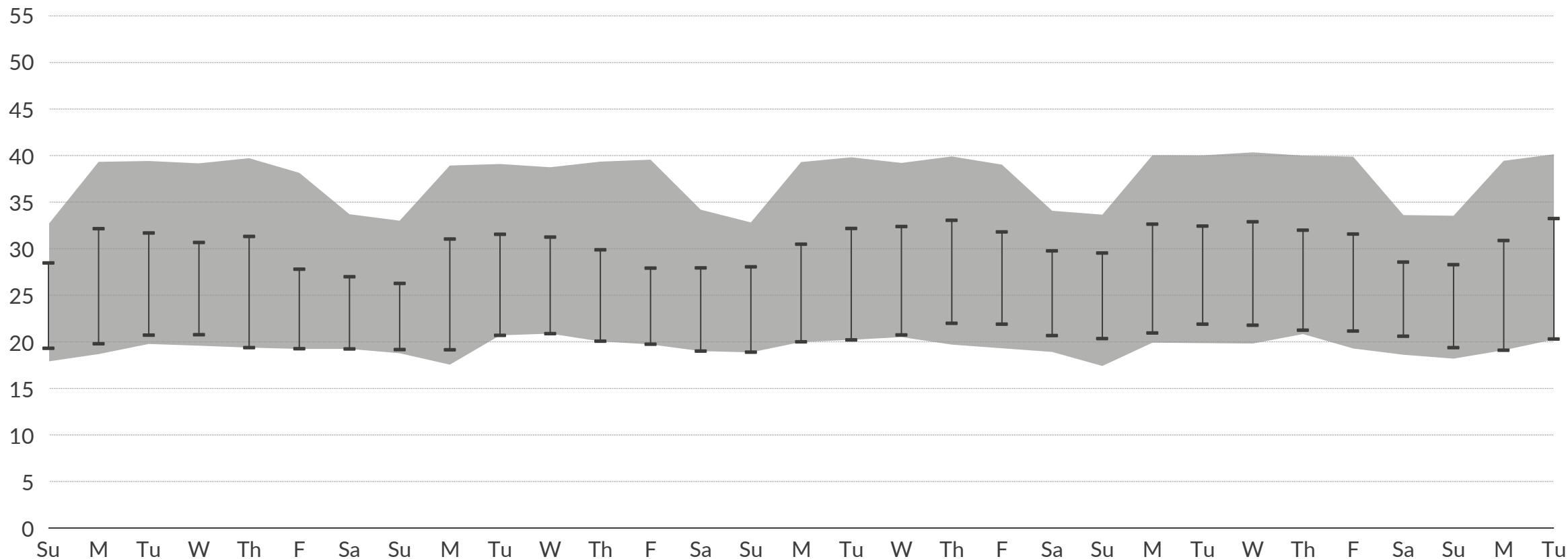


1) Half-hourly EPEX is the volume-weighted reference price over that half-hour interval, as provided by EPEX Spot. 2) Margins are calculated as the difference between MEL and Demand for each half-hour period. Demand data presented here is Initial Transmission System Demand Out-Turn, and does not include embedded demand. MEL is calculated as the sum of all transmission BM units reporting MEL values in each half-hour. Where a BMU gives multiple values in a half-hour, only the least is taken.  
Sources: Elexon, National Grid, Thomson Reuters, Aurora Energy Research

# Daily August max and min demand

## Relative to historic August max and min demand since 2010<sup>1</sup>

Demand<sup>2</sup>  
GW

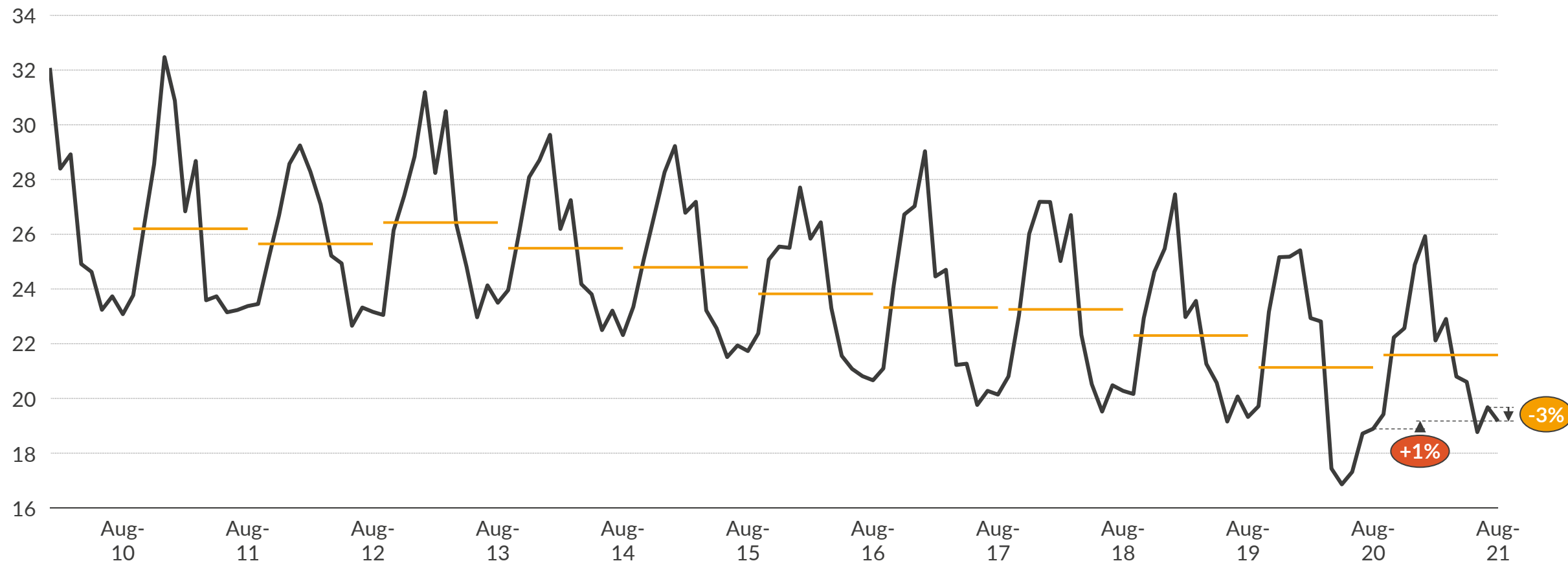


I Daily range ■ Historic maximum/minimum

1) Data from previous years is matched to the nearest weekday within the current month, to maintain the weekly demand pattern. 2) Demand data presented here is Initial Transmission System Demand Out-Turn, and does not include embedded demand.

# Monthly historical demand on the transmission system

Total demand<sup>1</sup>  
TWh



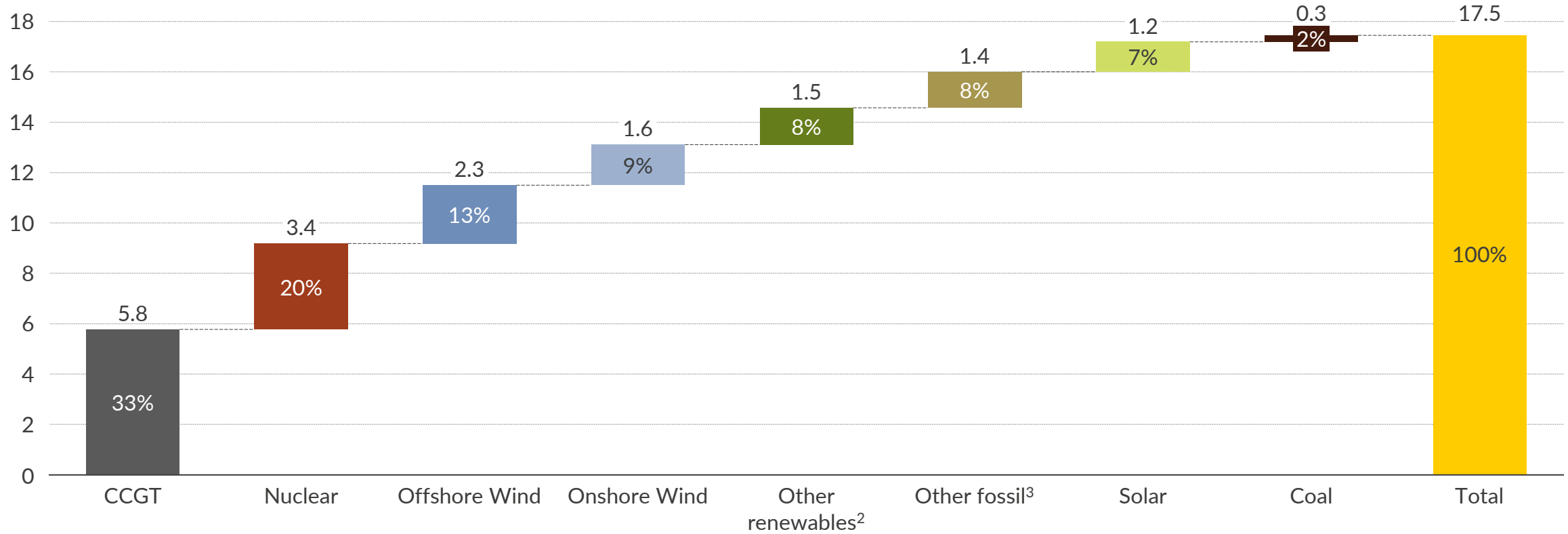
— Total monthly demand — Annual average demand x Month-on-month difference (average wind) x Year-on-year difference (average wind)

1) Demand data presented here is Initial Transmission System Demand Out-Turn, and includes station transformer load, pumped storage demand and interconnector demand, but does not include embedded demand.

# Monthly fuel mix breakdown

**Output<sup>1</sup>**

TWh

**Load factor**

%

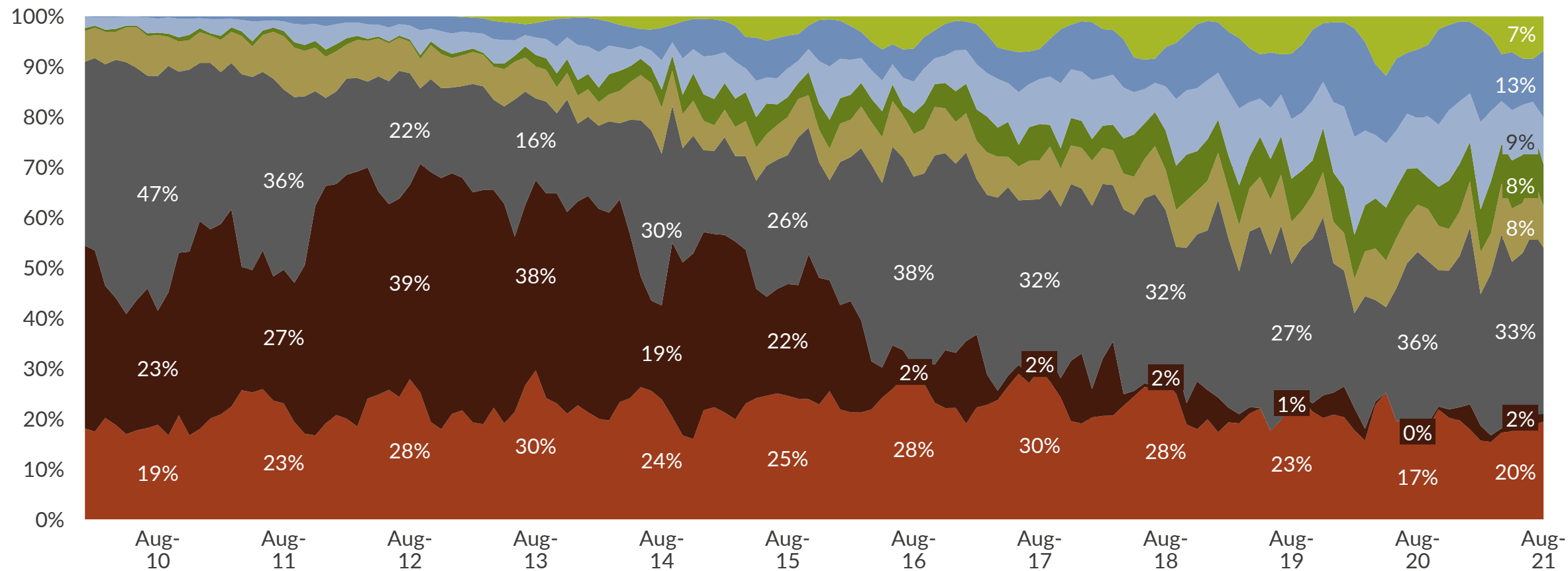


1) Includes outputs from generators registered as BM Units as well as embedded wind and solar PV assets. All numbers are rounded to 0.1 TWh which means that subtotals may not sum to total value. 2) Other renewables includes biomass and hydro. 3) Other fossil includes oil, CHP-CCGT and OCGT.

Sources: Elxon, Sheffield Solar, National Grid, Aurora Energy Research

# Historical fuel mix breakdown

Output<sup>1</sup>  
% of total

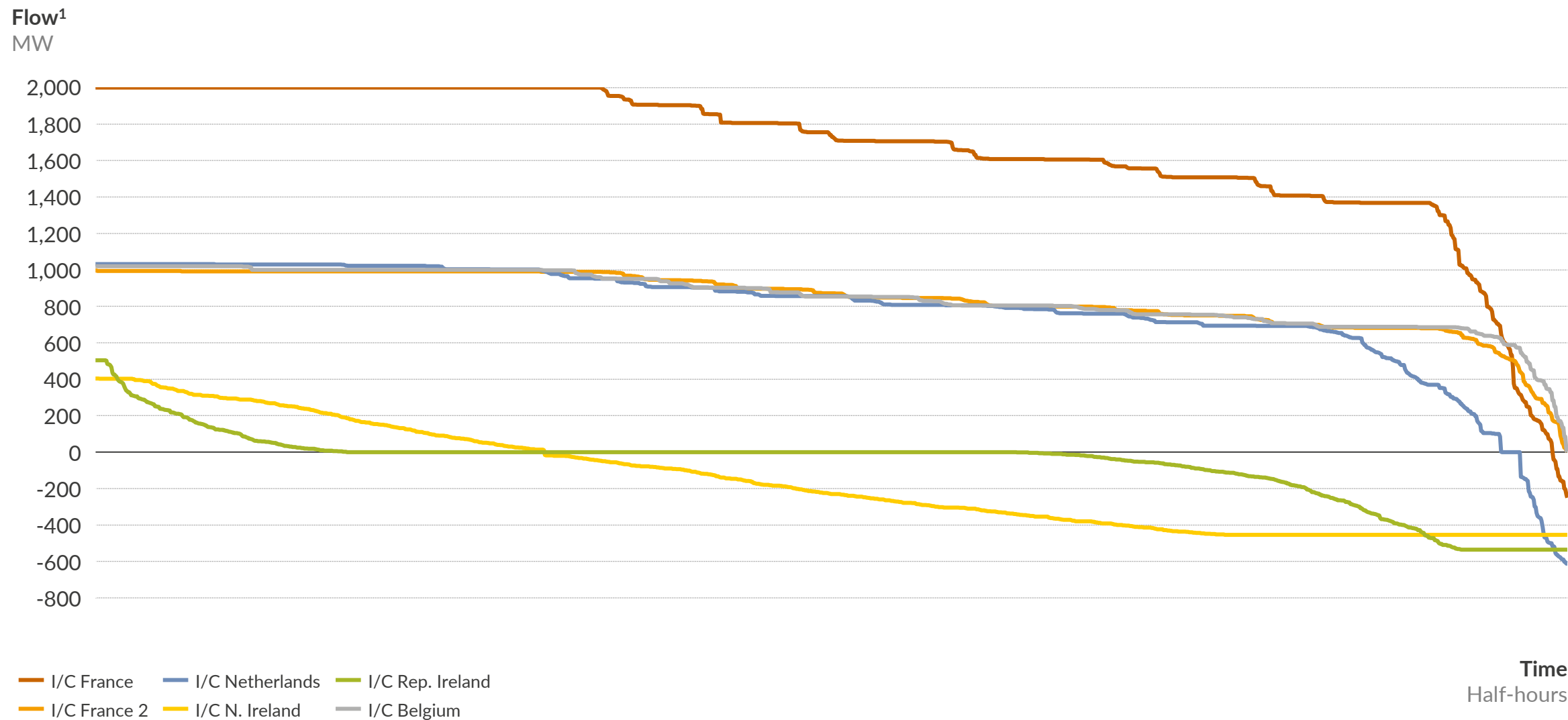


■ Nuclear 
 ■ Coal 
 ■ CCGT 
 ■ Other fossil<sup>2</sup>
■ Other renewables<sup>3</sup>
■ Onshore Wind 
 ■ Offshore Wind 
 ■ Solar 
 ■ Imports

1) Includes outputs from generators registered as BM Units as well as embedded wind and solar PV. 2) Other fossil includes oil, CHP-CCGT and OCGT. 3) Other renewables includes biomass and hydro.

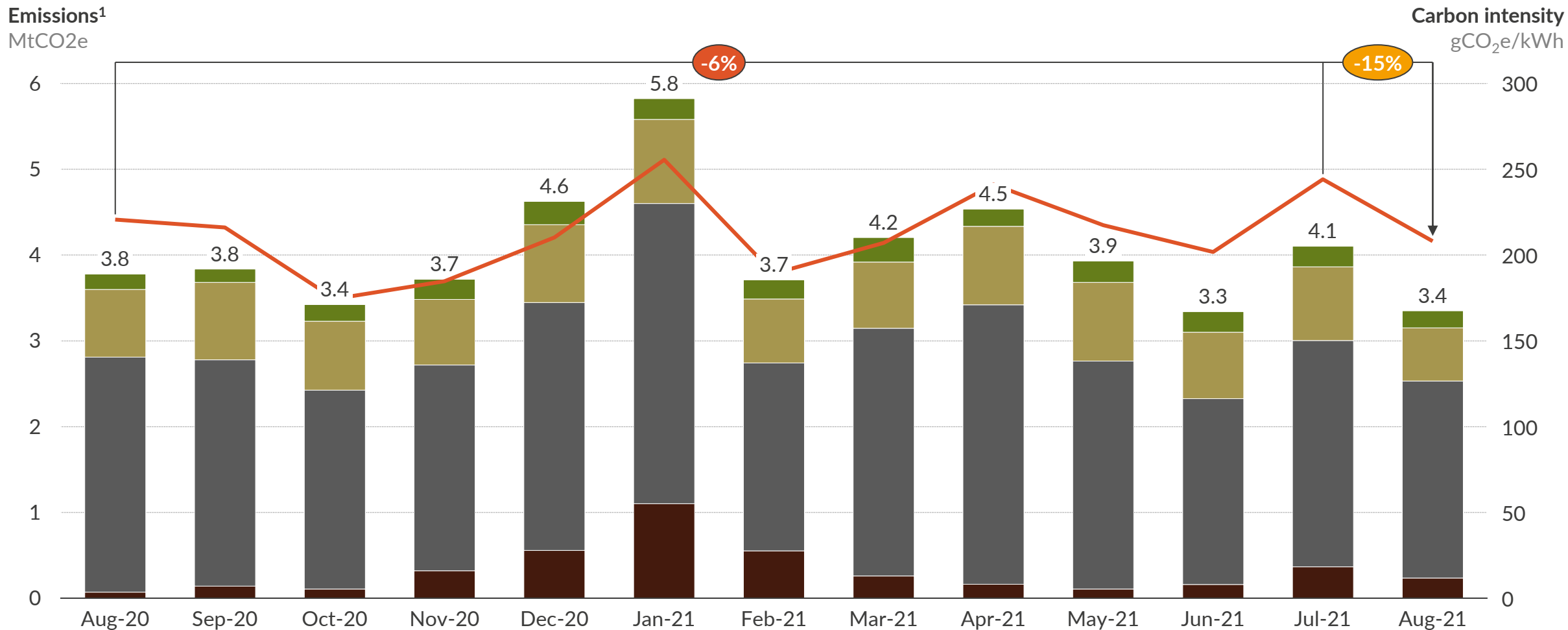
# Monthly interconnector flow duration curve

## Flow in each half-hour for GB interconnectors



1) Positive flow is imports into GB, negative flow is exports.

# Monthly emissions by technology



■ Biomass ■ Other fossil<sup>2</sup> ■ CCGT ■ Coal — System carbon intensity (x) Month-on-month difference (x) Year-on-year difference

1) Please refer to Appendix for details of methodology employed to calculate emission amounts. Includes all Balancing Mechanism plants. 2) Other fossil includes oil, OCGT and gas CHP-CCGT.

# Agenda

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I. System performance

II. Company performance (Subscriber only)

III. Plant performance



# Agenda

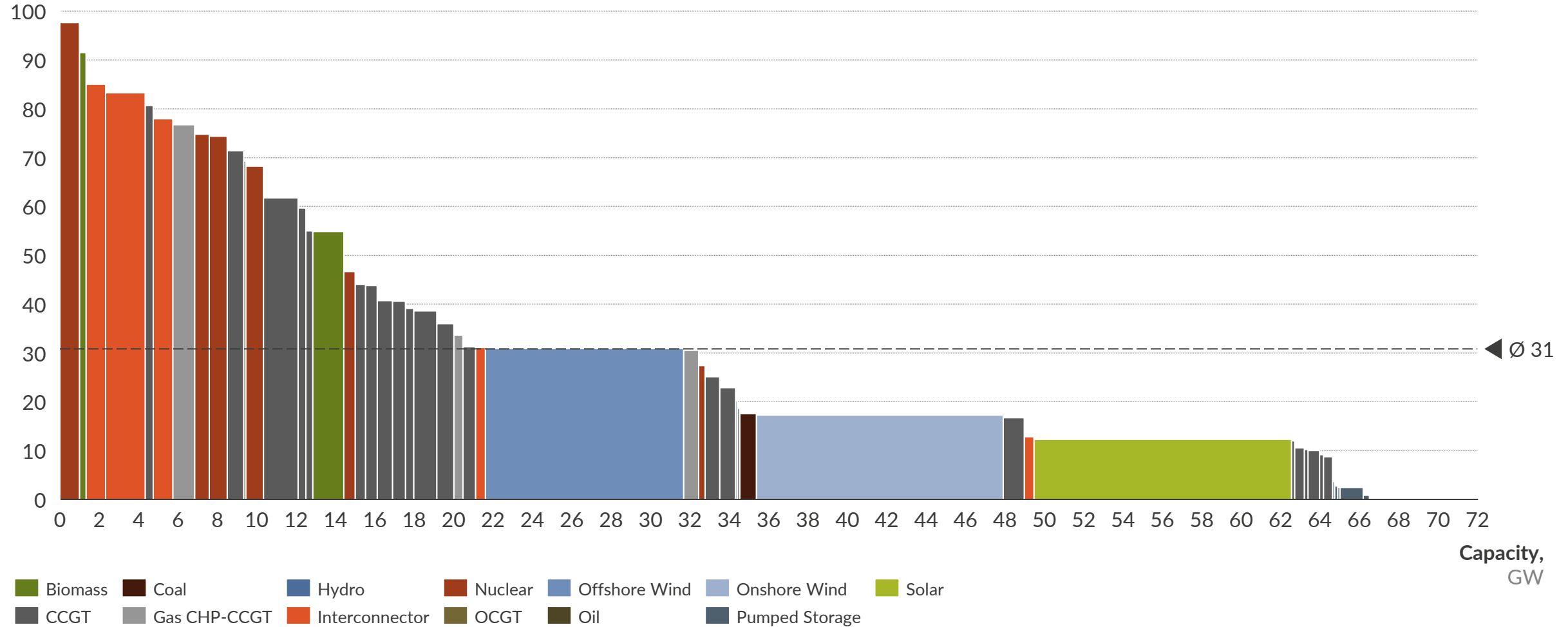
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- I. System performance
- II. Company performance (Subscriber only)
- III. Plant performance

# Plant utilisation – load factors by plant

Load factor<sup>1</sup>  
%

Column width  
reflects capacity



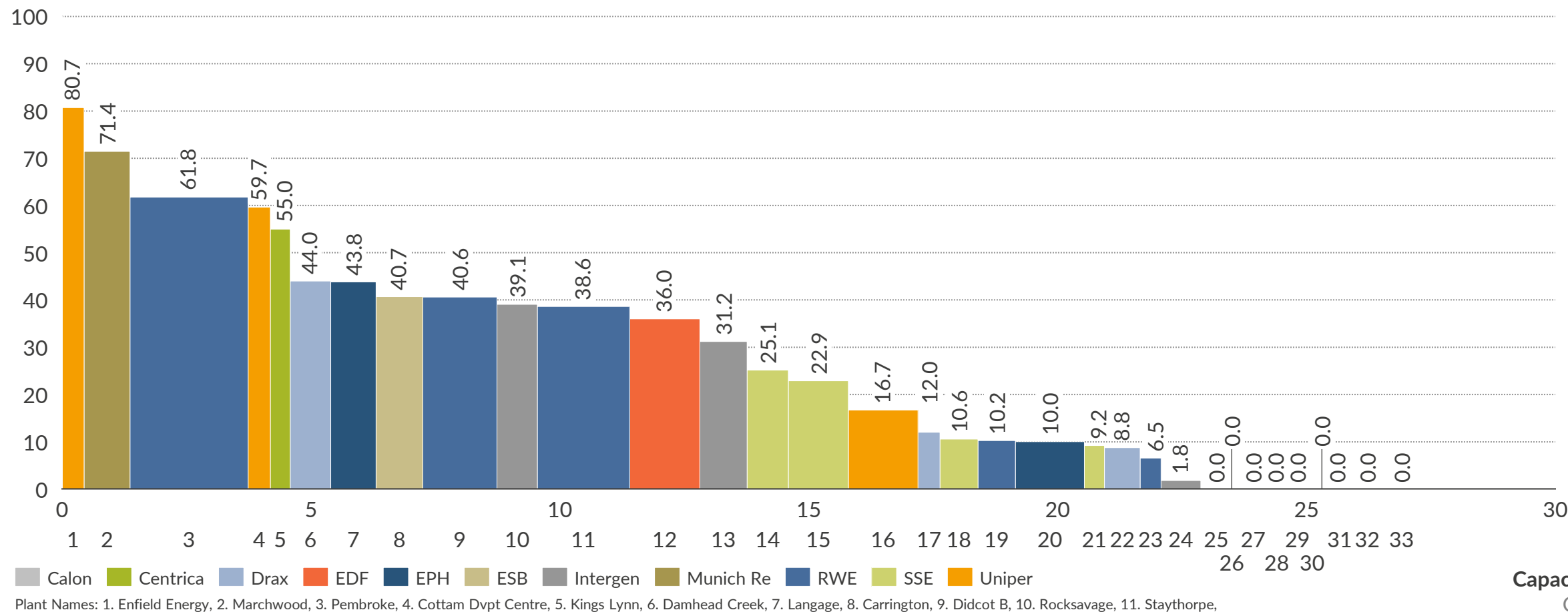
1) Represents 60 plants with highest capacity according to the Balancing Mechanism (BM) database, as well as aggregated data for wind and solar. Capacity of each plant represents the sum of capacities of all its generators that have been active at least once in the last three months. Please refer to Appendix for a detailed description of the data used and categories presented  
Sources: Aurora Energy Research, Elexon, BEIS

# CCGT plant utilisation – by plant

## Full load hours<sup>1</sup>

% of total for the period

Column width  
reflects capacity



Calon Centrica Drax EDF EPH ESB Intergen Munich Re RWE SSE Uniper

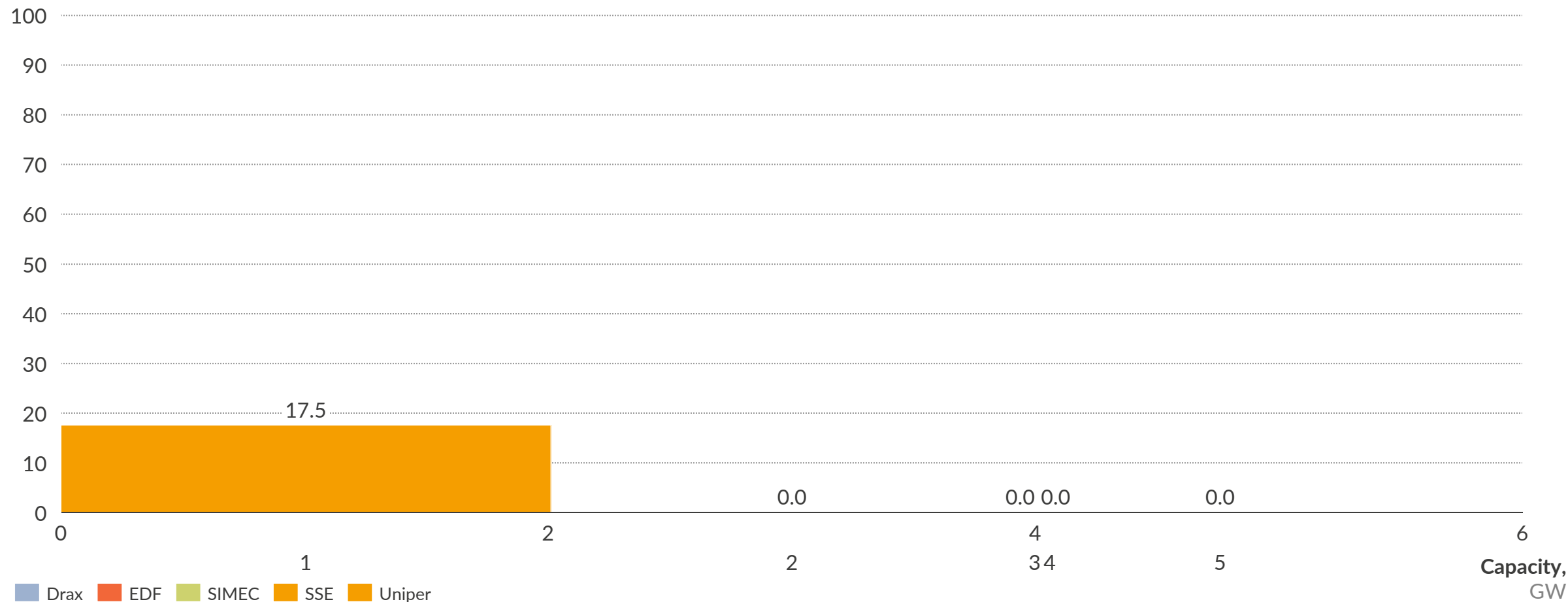
Plant Names: 1. Enfield Energy, 2. Marchwood, 3. Pembroke, 4. Cottam Dvpt Centre, 5. Kings Lynn, 6. Damhead Creek, 7. Langage, 8. Carrington, 9. Didcot B, 10. Rocksavage, 11. Staythorpe, 12. West Burton B, 13. Spalding, 14. Seabank 1, 15. Peterhead, 16. Connahs Quay, 17. Shoreham, 18. Keadby, 19. Little Barford, 20. South Humber Bank, 21. Seabank 2, 22. Rye House, 23. Great Yarmouth, 24. Coryton, 25. Killingholme 2, 26. Killingholme 1, 27. Sutton Bridge, 28. Glanford Brigg, 29. Medway, 30. Peterborough, 31. Corby, 32. Severn, 33. Baglan Bay.

1) Includes all CCGT plants of the presented companies that report to the Balancing Mechanism

# Coal plant utilisation – by plant

**Full load hours<sup>1</sup>**  
% of total for the period

Column width  
reflects capacity



Plant Names: 1. Ratcliffe, 2. West Burton, 3. Uskmouth, 4. Fiddlers Ferry, 5. Drax Coal.

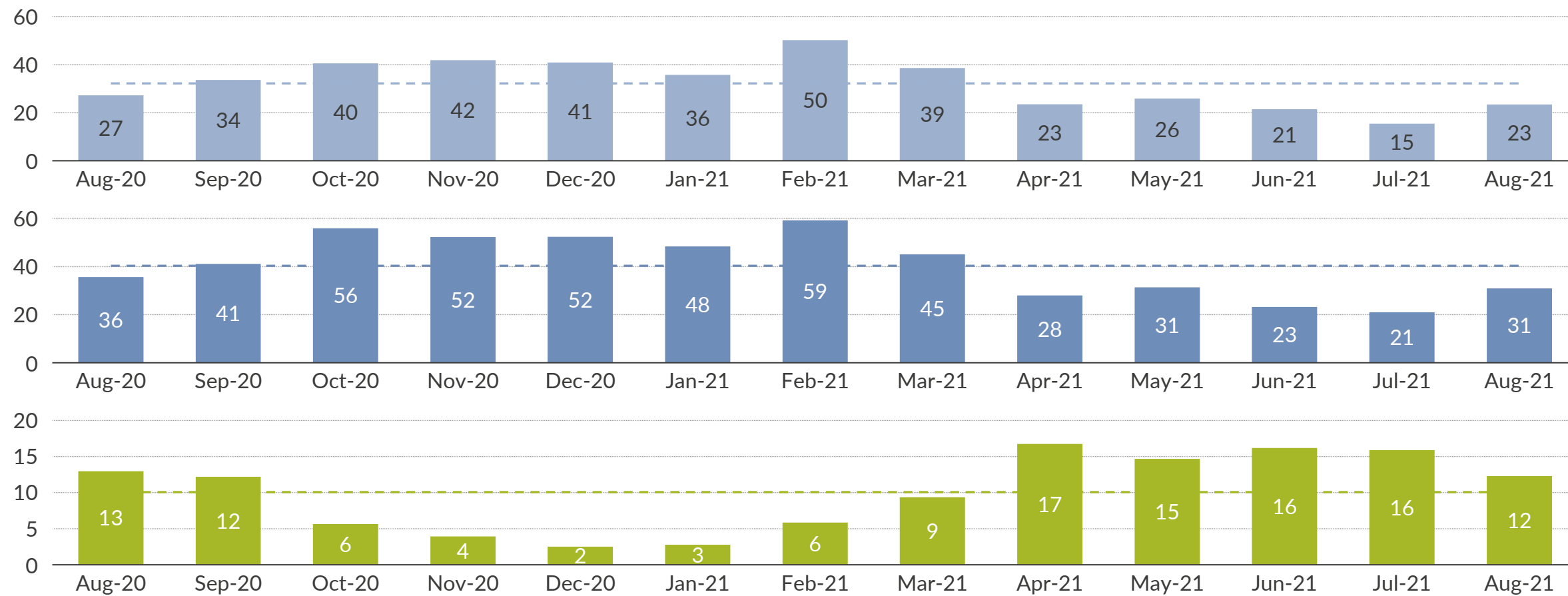
1) Includes all coal plants of the presented companies that report to the Balancing Mechanism

Sources: Aurora Energy Research, Elexon

# Monthly load factors by technology

## Average load factor<sup>1</sup>

%

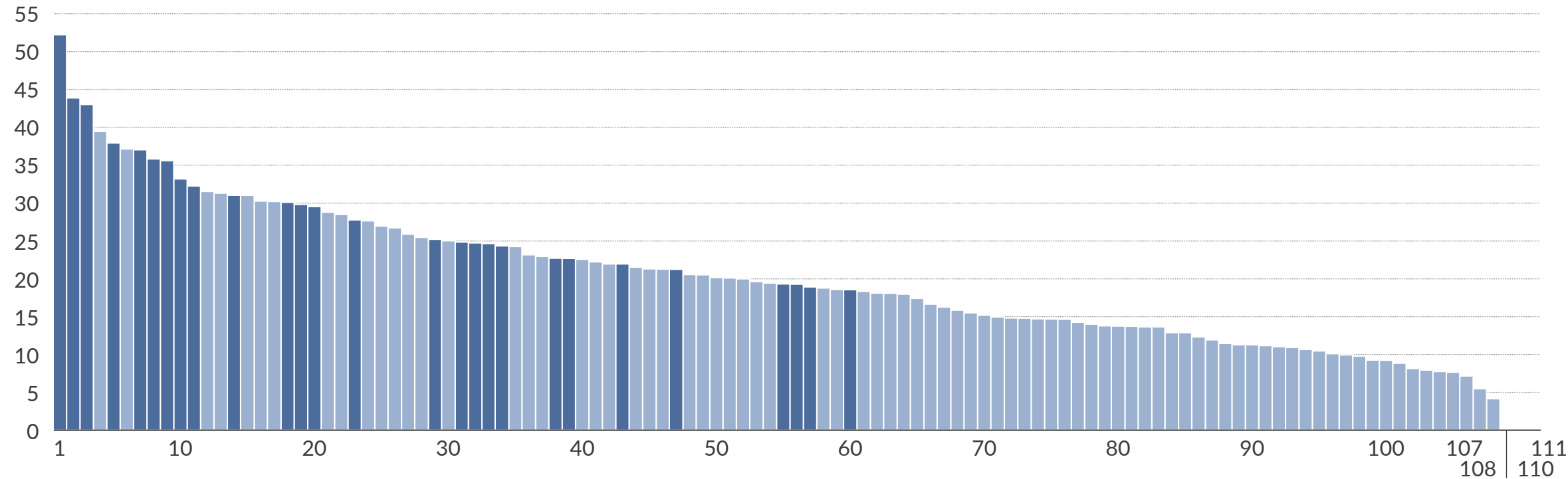


■ Onshore Wind    - - Onshore Average    ■ Offshore Wind    - - Offshore Average    ■ Solar    - - Solar Average

1) Includes outputs from generators registered as BM Units as well as embedded wind and solar PV

# Wind farm utilisation – load factor by wind farm

Load factor<sup>1</sup>  
%



Plant Names: 1. Galloper, 2. East Anglia One, 3. Hywind Scotland, 4. Gordonstown, 5. Hornsea 1 , 6. Whiteside Hill, 7. London Array, 8. Greater Gabbard, 9. Dudgeon, 10. Westermost Rough, 11. Rampion, 12. Aikengall 2, 13. Sanquhar Community, 14. Lincs, 15. Dorenell, 16. Brockloch Rig 2, 17. Halsary Windfarm, 18. Thanet, 19. Humber, 20. Race Bank, 21. Auchrobert, 22. Beinn an Tuirc III , 23. West of Duddon Sands, 24. Hill of Glaschyle, 25. Crystal Rig, 26. An Suidhe, 27. Andershaw, 28. Cour, 29. Gunfleet Sands, 30. Blackcraig, 31. Beatrice, 32. Moray East, 33. Walney Extension, 34. Burbo Extension, 35. Kilbraur, 36. Fallago Rig, 37. Assel Valley, 38. Gwynt y Mor, 39. Aberdeen, 40. Kilgallioch, 41. Minsca, 42. Mid Hill, 43. Walney, 44. Millennium, 45. Bad a Cheo, 46. Carraig Gheal, 47. Robin Rigg, 48. Coire Na Cloiche, 49. Baillie, 50. Corriegarth, 51. Pen y Cymoedd, 52. Gordonbush, 53. Farr, 54. Dalswinton, 55. Sheringham Shoals, 56. Ormonde, 57. Barrow, 58. Dunmaglass, 59. Afton, 60. Burbo Bank, 61. Roths Extension, 62. Embedded Wind, 63. Burn of Whilk, 64. A Chruach, 65. Camster, 66. Galawhistle, 67. Stronelaig, 68. Glen App, 69. Clyde, 70. Middle Muir, 71. Glens of Foudland, 72. Tullymurdoch, 73. Braes of Doune, 74. Strathly North, 75. Goole Fields, 76. Clashindarroch, 77. Freasdail, 78. Berry Burn, 79. Beinneun, 80. Beinn An Tuirc , 81. Dersalloch, 82. Kype Muir, 83. Hare Hill Extension, 84. Ewe Hill, 85. Craig, 86. Mark Hill, 87. Corriemoillie, 88. Toddleburn, 89. Arecleoch, 90. Minnygap, 91. Tullo, 92. Griffin, 93. Bhlaraidh, 94. Beinn Tharsuinn, 95. Tullo Extension, 96. Edinbane, 97. Hill of Towie, 98. Harburnhead, 99. Whitelee, 100. Hadyard Hill, 101. Dun Law Extension, 102. Glenchamber, 103. Lochluichart, 104. Moy, 105. Harestanes, 106. Black Law, 107. Clachan Flats, 108. Airies, 109. Kincardine, 110. Brownieleys, 111. Keith Hill.

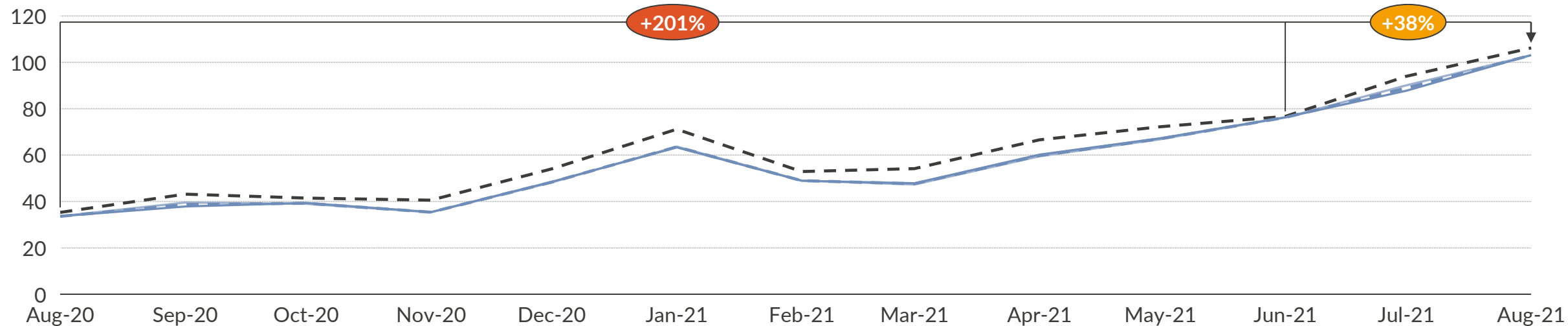
■ Offshore Wind ■ Onshore Wind

1) Represents UK wind farms reporting Balancing Mechanism Unit data. Figures presented reflect Final Physical Notification (FPN) expectations reported to the grid, which are not always representative of actual production

# RES capture price versus baseload price

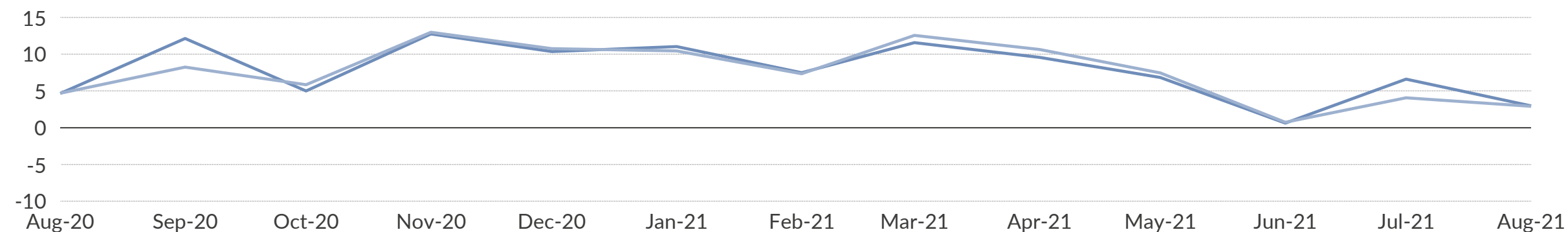
Baseload and capture price<sup>1,2</sup>

£/MWh



Technology capture discount<sup>2,3</sup> to baseload

%



— Baseload — Onshore Wind — Offshore Wind — Average wind (x) Month-on-month difference (average wind) (x) Year-on-year difference (average wind)

1) Baseload price is the average monthly EPEX price; 2) Wind capture price is the load-weighted monthly average EPEX price across all wind Balancing Mechanism plants for all half-hourly periods. 3) Negative values represent capture prices above the baseload price while positive values represent capture prices below the baseload price

Sources: Aurora Energy Research, Elexon, Thomson Reuters

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## Data used

- Output values used in this summary reflect the sum of Final Physical Notifications (FPN) submitted by all BM Units of a given plant that have been active over the last three months.
- Capacity values used in this summary reflect the sum of capacities of individual BM Units, as reported to the Balancing Mechanism, that have been active over the last three months. They reflect long-term capacities and exclude temporary fluctuations due e.g. to plant failures or scheduled maintenance.
- Prices used in this summary are the EPEX half-hourly Reference Prices for half-hourly, two-hourly and four-hourly spot products.

## Categories presented

- Full-load hours represent the plants' load factors, calculated as the ratio of the output produced in a given month to the maximum possible output given the plants' capacity.
- Running hours represent the proportion of time in a given month when a plant has been active, i.e. when at least one of its BM Units produced output greater than zero.
- Capture prices (or average output-weighted prices) are calculated as an average of EPEX half-hourly prices per MWh weighted by the plants' corresponding half-hourly outputs for all periods.
- Average gross margins are calculated as a sum of the uplift and inframarginal rent. Uplift is calculated as the difference between the EPEX price and the system marginal cost (SMC). SMC is the maximum marginal cost of all the plants with at least one generator producing above 80% of its installed capacity in a given half-hour.
- Emissions are calculated as plant output divided by electrical efficiency, multiplied by theoretical carbon content of the fuel input. The carbon content of fuel inputs is sourced from BEIS's Greenhouse gas reporting – Conversion factors 2016. System carbon intensity is calculated as the total emission divided by total electricity generated.



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