

AT PRESENT CONSUMERS ARE STILL UNSURE JUST HOW MUCH THEIR BILLS WILL BE AFFECTED.

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High Demand

The statistics are worrying and at present²⁰ consumers are still unsure just how much their bills will be affected. Industry experts are unable to give any exact figures and are not even 100 percent sure just how long the increases will last. This is likely to be the case until things begin to settle down²¹ somewhat. "Of course the worst part for people is the whole not knowing," Economist and Financial Advisor Charlotte Saunders tells Business English Magazine. "Once people have had a chance to get their heads around²² it, they will ultimately find it easier to make long-term²³ plans and budget for²⁴ the future."

There are a number of factors which have contributed to the increase, not least²⁵ higher coal and gas prices and the demand for oil now finding its feet²⁶ following a slump²⁸ in 2020. The recent unprecedented²⁹ lockdowns which took place worldwide have also played a huge part, especially when it comes to³⁰ both supply³¹ and demand.

"This is about a surge³² in demand for energy as we come out of the restrictions imposed³³ by the pandemic, combined with a reduced supply of gas on the global market," Head of the Low Carbon and Circular Economy programme at the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) Tim Gore told Euronews. "Then there are other factors exacerbating³⁴ the problem, particularly in Europe. We have succeeded in³⁵ getting coal off the grid³⁶, and that happens to coincide with³⁷ a period recently where wind power has been lower because of the weather."

"If we get a particularly cold winter again this year, that's going to be a tough period and prices will continue to rise as a result," he continued. "Governments should be preparing now and putting in place³⁸ the measures to respond³⁹ and help households through the period. There is still time."

As well as this, recent lockdowns have meant that a vast⁴⁰ amount of maintenance⁴¹ and construction work was put on hold⁴² due to restrictions. With businesses now back up and running⁴³, the call for energy from the industry is as high as it has ever been as they not only resume⁴⁴ work, but push even harder to reach essential⁴⁵ targets.

Fear Across the Board

The overall⁴⁶ surge has not only caused fears about inflation but also potential short-ages⁴⁷ in the long term⁴⁸. It's an issue which trickles down⁴⁹ from the industry's top dogs⁵⁰ and individuals already living on a shoestring⁵¹ as the global economy struggles to stabilise following the pandemic, the price hike is set to cause all manner of⁵² problems. "What we will begin to see more and more of is people being forced to make even more sacrifices⁵³," says Charlotte Saunders. "Difficult choices will need to be made and certain luxuries⁵⁴ may need to be cut out. Of course, with people having less money to go out at the moment, they are being forced to spend more time at home, meaning they are using more gas and electricity. It's something of a vicious circle⁵⁵."

As charities⁵⁶ begin to gear up⁵⁷ in order to provide essential support to those who may feel the pinch⁵⁸ the most, consumers are being advised to seek out better deals and more suitable⁵⁹ suppliers.

Shopping Around

at present at 'prezent obecnie
21 to settle down 'sætɪ daʊn osiść
22 somewhat 'sʌmwɪt nieco, cokolwiek
23 to get one's head around sth 'tə get wɒnz hed
a 'rʌnd 'sʌmɪŋ przejsć nad czymś do porządku
dziennego

long-term 'lɒŋ tɜːm długoterminowy
25 to budget for sth 'tə 'bʌdʒet fɜːr 'sʌmɪŋ
zaplanować coś w budżecie
26 not least X nɒt liːst a zwłaszcza/szczególnie X
27 to find one's feet 'tə faɪnd wʌnz fiːt stanać pewnie
na nogach
28 slump slʌmp kryzys, gwałtowny spadek
29 unprecedented ʌnpriːsɪdɪnt bezprecedensowy
30 when it comes to sth wen ɪt kʌmz 'tə 'sʌmɪŋ gdy/
jeśli chodzi o coś, mówiąc o czymś
31 supply sə'plaɪ podaż (czegoś)
32 surge sɜːdʒ gwałtowny wzrost, skok
(czegoś)
33 to impose sth 'tə ɪm'pəʊz 'sʌmɪŋ narzucić coś,
wymusić
34 to exacerbate sth 'tu ɪg'zæsbəteɪt 'sʌmɪŋ pogorszyć
coś
35 to succeed in doing sth 'tə sək'siːd ɪn 'duːɪŋ 'sʌmɪŋ
z powodzeniem czegoś dokonać
36 to get sth off the grid 'tə get 'sʌmɪŋ ɒf ðə grɪd tu:
usunąć coś z sieci energetycznej, wyłączyć z sieci
37 to coincide with sth 'tə kəʊɪn'waɪz wɪð 'sʌmɪŋ zbiec
się (w czasie) z czymś
38 to put sth in place 'tə pʊt 'sʌmɪŋ ɪn pleɪs
zainstalować coś, ustawić
39 to respond 'tə rɪ'spɒnd zareagować
40 vast vɒst szeroki, rozległy
41 maintenance 'meɪntənəns utrzymywanie,
konserwacja
42 to put sth on hold 'tə pʊt 'sʌmɪŋ ɒn haʊld
wstrzymać coś, odłożyć coś na jakiś czas
43 up and running ʌp and rʌnɪŋ działający,
uruchomiony
44 to resume sth 'tə rɪ'zjuːm 'sʌmɪŋ kontynuować coś
essential ɪ'senʃl niezbędny, podstawowy
46 overall 'əʊvərl 'ɔːli ogólny
47 shortage 'ʃɔːtɪdʒ brak, niedobór
48 in the long term ɪn ðə lɒŋ tɜːm na dłuższą metę
49 to trickle down 'tə trɪkl daʊn spływać (do kogoś),
trafiać (w niedużej ilości, ale ciągle) do kogoś/
czegoś
50 top dog tɒp dɒg gruba ryba, szczycha
51 to live on a shoestring 'tə lɪv ɒn ə 'ʃuːstrɪŋ żyć na
krawędzi ubóstwa
52 all manner of X ɔːl 'mæniə(r) ɒv wszelkiego rodzaju
X
53 sacrifice 'sækrɪfəs ofiarą
luxury 'lʌkʃəri luksusowy
55 vicious circle 'vɪʃəs 'sɜːkl błędne koło
charity 'tʃærɪti organizacja charytatywna
57 to gear up 'tə geə(r) ʌp przygotować się (np. na coś)
58 to feel the pinch 'tə fiːl ðə pɪntʃ zacząć cienko
przejsć, zostać boleśnie (finansowo) dotkniętym
suitable 'suɪtəbl odpowiedni