

# Energy Wholesale Market Review Week Ending 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017



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#### Headlines 25/08/2017

Several power and gas contracts hit new multi-month highs this week, along with API 2 coal and EU ETS carbon prices. Baseload power contracts experienced mixed movements this week. Day-ahead baseload power dropped 8.4% to £43.5/MWh. September 17 power slipped 0.1% to £49.6/MWh on Friday. However, on Monday the contract reached £50.5/MWh, the highest price on our records. The contract is now 28.7% above its level this time last year (£38.5/MWh). The October 17 and Q417 contracts also reached the highest levels on our records, at £47.5/MWh and £50.0/MWh respectively. Winter 17 power gained 2.1% to £50.3/MWh and reached a seven-month high of £50.4/MWh on Thursday. All near-term gas contracts increased this week, hitting new highs. Week-on-week, the day-ahead contract rose 1.0% to 44.4p/th. On Thursday, day-ahead gas hit a near six-month high of 45.2p/th, with low imports from Norway contributing to an undersupplied system. The month-ahead contract rose to 44.7p/th. On Thursday, the contract reached 45.2p/th the highest price on our records for the contract. Brent crude oil prices increased 2.3% to average \$52.2/bl. API 2 coal rose 2.1% to average \$78.0/t. On Friday, prices reached \$78.8/t, the highest price since September 2014. EU ETS carbon prices increased 3.9% this week to average €5.9/t. On Thursday, prices reached a fresh seven-month high of €6.0/t.

#### **Baseload electricity**

- Near-term baseload power contracts experienced mixed movements this week.
- Day-ahead baseload power dropped 8.4% to £43.5/MWh.

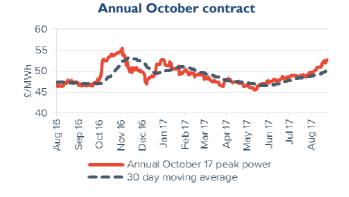


- The month-ahead contract (September) slipped by 0.1% to £49.6/MWh.
- The annual October 17 power contract increased 0.9% to £46.0/MWh.



## **Peak electricity**

- . Most near-term peak power contracts increased this week.
- The only exception was day-ahead peak power, which dropped 15.0% to £44.0/MWh. The contract was just  $\pounds 0.5/MWh$  higher than its baseload counterpart.



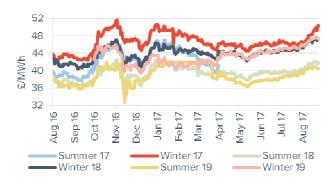
- The month-ahead (September) contract climbed 1.2% to £55.6/MWh. The contract was £6.0/MWh above its baseload counterpart.
- Annual October 17 peak power gained 1.3% to £52.6/MWh. The contract was £6.6/MWh above its baseload counterpart.



#### Forward curve comparison

#### Seasonal power prices





- Seasonal baseload power contracts were also mixed this week.
- Winter 17 power gained 2.1% to £50.3/MWh.
- Summer 18 power lost 0.6% to £41.7/MWh.

51 49 47 45 E/MWh 43 41 39 37 35 W19 W17 N18 This week Last week Last year

Seasonal baseload power curve

- Seasonal peak power contracts experienced mixed movements this week.
- Winter 17 peak power climbed 3.2% to £59.3/MWh.
- In contrast, Summer 18 peak power slipped 1.1% to £45.9/MWh.

#### Supplier hedging strategies

The majority of power contracts along the forward curve increased in July, supported by an underlying rise in commodity prices. In contrast, gas contracts experienced mixed movements.

The annual October 17 gas contract lost 1.0% in July to average 41.9p/th. The annual October 17 baseload power contract gained 0.2% to average £43.0/MWh. Brent crude oil prices climbed 2.4% to average \$52.5/bl. On average, API 2 coal prices jumped 5.8% to \$72.5/t, and EU ETS carbon prices increased 5.2% to  $\leq 5.5/t$ .

During July, the price changes seen to fixed domestic dual-fuel tariffs were mainly decreases. 14 of the price changes were decreases, whereas 11 were increases. The largest price decrease was Green Network Energy's "Family Green 18 Month Fixed v4" tariff, which fell by 7.5% to £893.8/year. In contrast, the largest price increase was E.ON UK's "Saver Fixed 1 Year v12" tariff, which rose by 8.1% to £1,030.0/year.

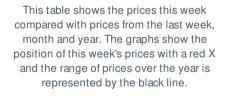
The one-year fixed price shown below (red line) provides a fixed hedging cost for one year from the month after the month in question, based on the forward curve. This measure is used to create a benchmark for fixed tariff offers put into the market by suppliers. The instantaneous price (green line) is representative of the hedging strategies of large suppliers, which typically purchase energy little and often to be consumed in a future period. Therefore, the instantaneous price shows a 'longer-hedged' strategy of buying power up to the current date, whereas the red line shows a 'shorter-hedged' strategy for a 12-month period looking forwards.

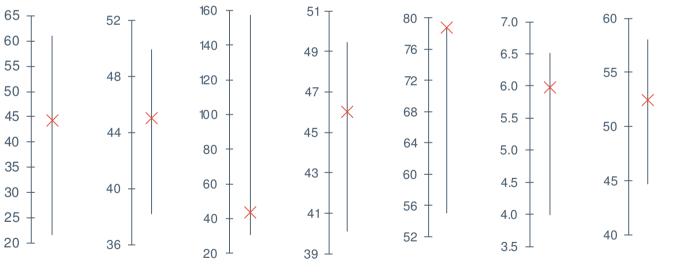
Between the start of 2015 and July 2016, it was cheaper to use the shorter-hedged strategy as wholesale power prices have steadily declined. Since July 2016, the longer-hedged strategy has been cheaper, however both strategies are converging and close to overlapping again, which can be seen in the graph.



# Wholesale price snapshot

		Gas (p/th)		Electricity (£/MWh)		Coal	Carbon	Brent crude
		Day-ahead	Year-ahead	Day-ahead	Year-ahead	(\$/t)	(€/t)	(\$/bl)
This week	25 Aug 17	44.40	44.99	43.50	46.00	78.80	5.98	52.45
Last week	18 Aug 17	43.95	44.68	47.50	45.60	78.50	5.80	51.12
Four weeks ago	28 Jul 17	38.50	42.44	40.15	43.08	73.30	5.12	51.73
Last year	26 Aug 16	28.35	40.63	35.11	40.30	57.00	4.73	49.27
Year-on-year % change		56.6%	10.7%	23.9%	14.1%	38.2%	26.4%	6.5%
Year high		61.00	49.91	157.73	49.45	78.80	6.52	58.04
Year low		21.50	38.14	30.28	40.08	55.00	3.98	44.64





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### About EDW Technology Limited

EDW has an extensive history of developing, implementing and supporting its 'best of breed' retail electricity software solutions.

In 2000, EDW began building a revolutionary new electricity software platform to support the rigorous demands of the UK's deregulated electricity supply market – a market characterised by rapidly changing government regulation, business processes, market rules, industry dataflows and customer demands. EDW were founded as a provider of high quality, end-to-end IT services and we have remained true to that aim ever since, servicing a range of companies in the energy industry.

For over 16 years, our software product ERS has empowered business electricity suppliers to transform customer experience, improve business efficiency, reduce costs to serve and improve profitability.

EDW has a UK based team of 85 employees working from the EDW offices in Milton Keynes.

#### Industrial and commercial billing specialists

The industrial and commercial electricity supply market has unique business requirements that need to be serviced with a specialised set of IT system capabilities. Sophisticated business customers are willing to actively engage in the management of their energy accounts and solutions need to provide tools that support enhanced service interaction. EDW has gathered an extensive knowledge of the industrial and commercial market sector that enables the delivery of a powerful set of system capabilities essential to your requirements to service this complex and demanding market sector.

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