

PRESS RELEASE

Electricity: bills down 19.8% in the second quarter of 2024 Last Protection Regime price update for non-vulnerable customers

As of 1 July, non-vulnerable households on the Protection Regime will automatically switch to the Gradual Standard Offer Service

Milan, 28 March 2024 - Electricity bills for the **typical household¹ under the protection regime** fell by 19.8% in the **second quarter of 2024**, in what is the last quarterly update for **non-vulnerable customers**.

The decrease is mainly justified by the downward trend in natural gas and electricity prices towards the end of last year and in the early months of this year, which is slowing down due to rising geopolitical tensions. The price expectations of the natural gas market for the second quarter of 2024, favoured by a level of European storages that - thanks to a relatively mild winter - is historically high at the end of the delivery season, resulted in an estimated electricity price (PUN) of around € 83/MWh.

In terms of final effects, **the expenditure for the typical household in the rolling year²** (from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) **will be about 662 euros**, re-approaching the pre-crisis levels, recording - **47.7% compared to the equivalent 12 months of the previous year** (1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023), the period in which the energy commodity price reached its peak.

As at 31 December 2023, almost 73% of households had chosen an offer in the free market, so that **the number of non-vulnerable households served in the protection regime amounted to approximately 4.5 million**.

As of 1 July, all non-vulnerable customers served in the Protection Regime will automatically switch to the Gradual Standard Offer Service, with the supplier selected by auction in that area. This transitional service will run for just under three years (until 31 March 2027) at the end of which, if no specific choice has been made, customers will continue to be supplied by the same supplier on the free market.

For **vulnerable customers**, on the other hand, ARERA will continue to update the economic conditions of the Protection Regime tariff on a quarterly basis, until the auctions are held, as provided for in Decree-Law 181/23 (the "Energy Security" DL).

Finally, it should be noted **that electricity households who have already switched to the free market have the right to return to the protection regime until the end of June 2024**. To do so, contact the protection regime operator for the relevant municipality. ARERA in this regard has published [the list of operators](#) on its website, along with instructions on how to search for them by municipality. Alternatively, call the Consumer Help Desk on 800 166 654.

"This is the time for us as consumers to evaluate what to do, to check our annual costs and consumption, to understand whether we are on the free market or protected regime, whether or not we are vulnerable customers, and whether or not returning to the protection regime is a convenient option in light of the automatic switch to the gradual standard offer service in July", says Stefano

¹ The typical household has an average electricity consumption of 2,700 kWh per year and a committed power of 3 kW.

² A rolling year is defined as the year consisting of the quarter being updated and the three preceding quarters, including considering the consumption associated with each quarter.

Besseghini, Chairman of ARERA - *“Up until now, the protection regime has made it possible to offer an efficient price, which has provided a benchmark for the market, but as the end of the protection regime draws near, we must always remember that it does not exhaust contractual protection, the rules and ARERA's supervision of their observance, and the protections for consumers at every stage of supply”.*

Details of bill components

In detailing the individual components in the bill, the final price for the typical household is thus 20.24 euro cents per kWh, including taxes, compared to 25.24 euro cents per kWh in the previous quarter.

The change of -19.8% is substantially related to the overall decrease in energy expenditure (-22.5%), offset by the increase in general system charges (+2.72%). Regulated grid tariffs (transmission and meter management), on the other hand, are unchanged.

We would recall that following the analyses performed during the year on electricity consumption³, ARERA's website **also makes the data available on the update** of electricity bills for the protected household customer calculated on the consumption of 2,000 kWh/year for the **“average customer”**, in addition to the 2,700 kWh/year typical household.

Full details on the update are available in the Data Sheet.

³ <https://www.arera.it/dati-e-statistiche/dettaglio/analisi-dei-consumi-dei-clienti-domestici>