



## GAS USAGE IN HOMES UP BY ALMOST A THIRD OVER APRIL AND MAY DUE TO UNSEASONABLY COLD WEATHER

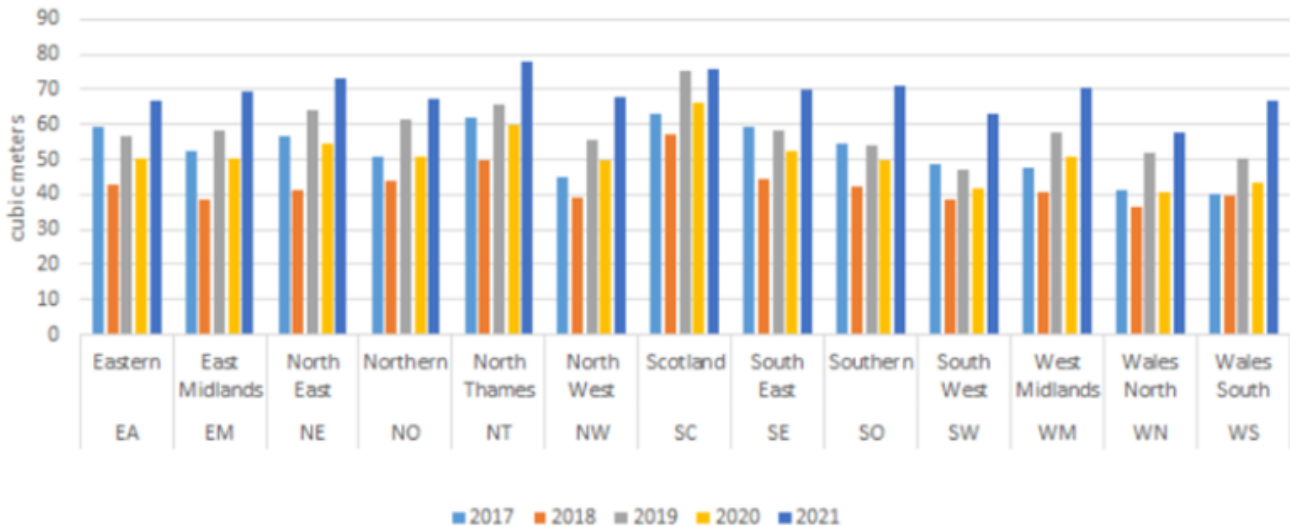
- Usage up 36% in May and 25% in April as Brits turned up the heating to combat the cold weather
- Usage in South Wales the highest in the UK, increasing by over 50% in May
- Average temperatures in April and May were just 5 and 7 degrees Celsius respectively
- Just over a quarter of Brits aware that smart meters can help them be more efficient with energy

**For immediate release, 6th June 2021:** The UK may currently be basking in a heatwave, making the cold weather of April and May seem like a distant memory. But temperatures were so cold during these two months that gas usage across Britain was up a huge 36% in May and a very significant 25% in April, compared to normal average usage levels for these months. This is according to new data, released today from Shell Energy.

The company, which supplies gas and renewable electricity to almost 1m households across the country, used smart meter data from its customers to provide a picture of gas usage due to the unseasonably cold weather the UK experienced during April and May.

The research showed that in some regions of Britain, usage was up by over 50% compared to seasonal averages as households turned up the thermostats.

May - average demand per household



In South Wales, gas usage in May was a massive 54% higher than the four year average, whilst usage was 43% higher in the North West, South West and West Midlands. Scotland recorded the lowest increase in May – a still large 16%. Usage in every region in England and Wales was up by at least 27% during the month.

Looking at April, the South East recorded the highest increase compared to average, up 44%. This was followed by the North Thames area (43%) and the Southern region (38%).

The Met Office reported that average temperatures across the UK in April were just 5.7 degrees Celsius – nearly 2 degrees colder than the long term average and the first time since 2012 that April was on average



colder than March. Temperatures dipped as low as -9.4 degrees in Tulloch Bridge in Inverness-shire. Meanwhile average May temperatures rose only slightly to 7 degrees. A stark contrast to the highs of 25 degrees Celsius recorded in some parts of the UK this week.

Smart meters can help Brits keep track of their energy usage in pounds and pence, especially helpful during periods such as this when it may be higher than expected. However, research from Shell Energy – conducted amongst 3,000 UK adults – shows that just 28% of Brits are aware that technology such as smart meters can help to make their home more energy efficient by helping people reduce energy waste thanks to better insights about their usage.

**Elvin Nagamootoo, Head of Product, Shell Energy Retail said:** *“Spring certainly had not sprung by the end of May this year, although we are now enjoying a marvellous start to June. Throughout April and May, the colder weather saw Britain reach for the thermostat resulting in a large spike in household gas usage compared to the rolling four year average..”*

*“Smart meter technology – which is available at no extra cost to all Shell Energy customers – is a great way for households to keep on top of their usage, especially at times when they may not be expecting to be using their central heating so heavily. It allows them to keep an eye on usage in pounds and pence, in almost real time, ensuring they are across what they are spending and avoid any shocks when the bill arrives.”*

**Full list of gas usage increased per UK region:**

		April 4 yr avg	Apr-21	Diff
NT	North Thames	99.33	142.47	43%
SE	South East	91.15	131.62	44%
EA	Eastern	90.97	122.60	35%
SO	Southern	88.97	122.47	38%
SC	Scotland	115.67	120.73	4%
NE	North East	99.33	116.64	17%
EM	East Midlands	91.70	116.41	27%
WM	West Midlands	91.51	113.12	24%
NO	Northern	92.56	110.02	19%
SW	South West	79.79	105.47	32%
NW	North West	90.83	102.90	13%
WS	Wales South	79.12	102.12	29%
WN	Wales North	80.84	92.41	14%

		May 4 yr avg	May 2021	Diff
NT	North Thames	59.35	78.17	32%
SC	Scotland	65.37	75.79	16%
NE	North East	54.19	73.41	35%
SO	Southern	50.27	71.01	41%
WM	West Midlands	49.17	70.31	43%
SE	South East	53.60	70.15	31%
EM	East Midlands	49.77	69.18	39%



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NW	North West	47.36	67.90	43%
NO	Northern	51.62	67.35	30%
WS	Wales South	43.42	67.02	54%
EA	Eastern	52.42	66.65	27%
SW	South West	44.11	63.21	43%
WN	Wales North	42.45	58.00	37%

## ENDS

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

Smart meter statistic from Shell Energy research conducted by Opinium amongst 3,001 British adults between 19-25 February 2021. Usage figures taken from anonymised Shell Energy customer smart meter data, 2 June 2021. Additional weather statistics sourced [HERE](#).

### ENQUIRIES

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#### **About Shell Energy Retail Ltd**

Shell Energy Retail Ltd, trading under the Shell Energy brand, supplies 100% renewable electricity, as well as gas, smart home technology and broadband to households across Britain. The Shell Energy brand is also shared by Shell's energy marketing and trading business. This separate entity provides more and cleaner energy solutions across a global portfolio of gas, power, environmental products and energy efficiency offers to meet current and future energy needs of Shell's large-scale customers: energy producers, asset owners, traders, wholesalers, and large industrial customers.

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