

Paris, 6th March 2012

Opening of the electricity and gas markets Figures as at 31th December 2012

RETAIL MARKETS

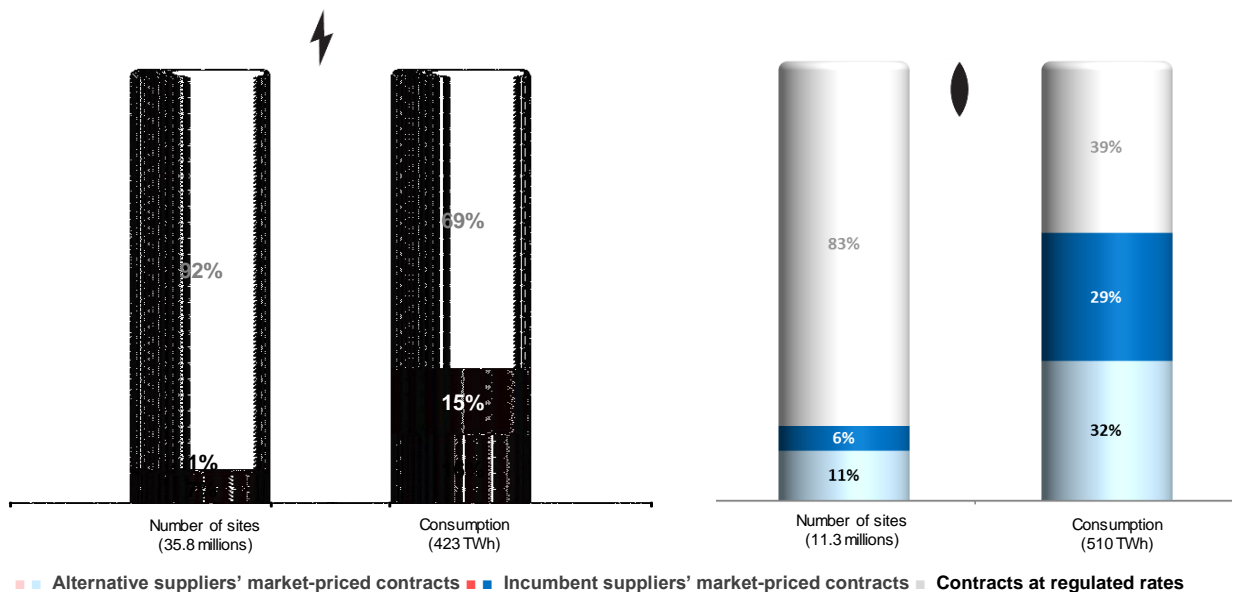
The electricity retail market continues to be dominated by regulated tariffs: as at 31th December 2012, 92% of all sites (representing 69% of consumption) had contracts based on regulated tariffs.

On the gas market, 39% of all gas consumed is furnished through contracts based on regulated tariffs to 83% of sites. Almost two thirds of the consumption is furnished through market-price contracts.

On the electricity market, the cheapest market-price offer is 4% lower than the regulated tariff for an average client consuming 2 400 KWh in Base as well as for the one consuming 8500 KWh in Peak/OffPeak.

On the gas market, the cheapest market-priced contract for a client living in Paris and consuming 750kWh per year is 7% lower than regulated tariff and 10% lower for a client consuming 17 000kWh per.

Breakdown of sites per type of contract as at 31th December 2012



Residential retail markets

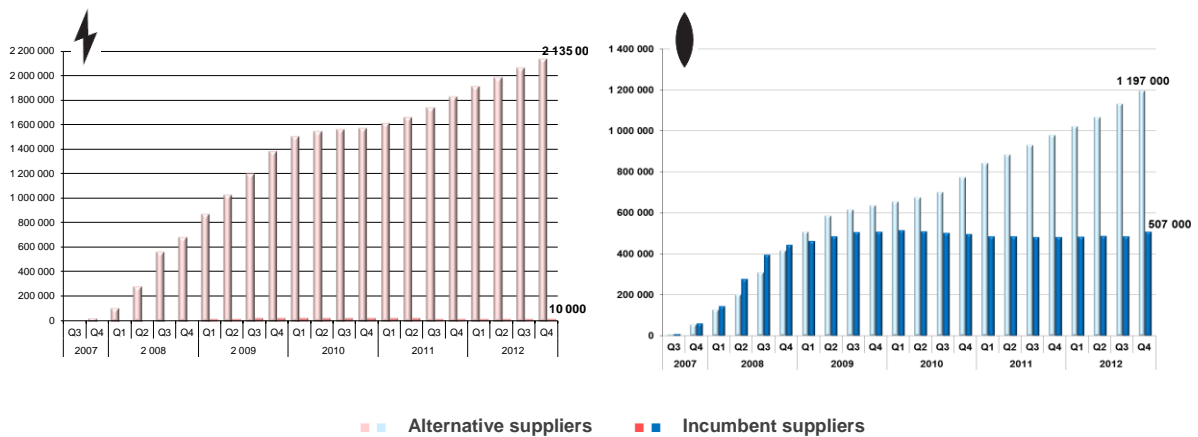
On the electricity market, the opening of the market is stable with 75, 000 additional customers (thus +3.6%) with contracts at market price at the end of the 4th quarter of 2012 (+ 79, 000 at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2012).

On the gas market, competition is opening out: 87, 000 additional customers subscribed to a market-price contract (+5.4 %) over the 4th quarter of 2012 (up from 64, 000 at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2012).

On the electricity market, as at 31th December 2012, 2,1 million sites, out of a total 30.8 million, have contracts based on market prices, most of which are with an alternative supplier.

On the gas market, 1, 704, 000 sites, out of a total 10.8 million, have contracts based on market prices, 1, 197, 000 of which are with an alternative supplier.

Number of residential customers with market-price contracts



Non residential retail markets

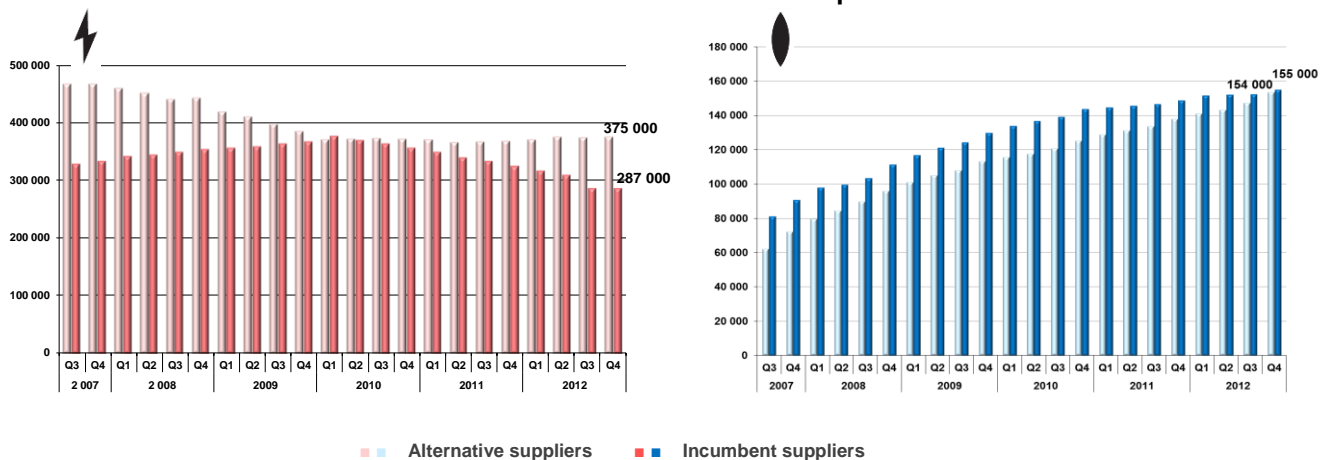
On the electricity market, the market opening is stable with 1 000 additional customers compared to the previous quarter.

On the gas market, the opening of the market is slightly rising from the 3rd quarter of 2012 with 9, 000 additional customers with market-price contracts (representing a 3.0% gain) accrued over the 4th quarter of 2012 (+4, 500 during the 3rd quarter of 2012).

As at 31th December 2012, 662,000 sites, out of a total 4.9 million, have electricity contracts based on market prices, of which 375, 000 sites are with an alternative supplier.

On the gas market, 309,000 sites, out of a total 675, 000 sites, have market-price contracts, 154, 000 of which are with an alternative supplier

Number of non-residential customers with market-price contracts



All figures shown in this section were provided by network operators and energy suppliers and analyzed by the CRE.

WHOLESALE MARKETS

Electricity wholesale market

On the spot market for electricity (day-ahead and intraday), traded volumes increased in comparison to both the previous quarter (+35%) and the fourth quarter of 2011 (+15%). **Regarding the term contracts market, traded volumes increased** by 56% compared to the previous quarter to reach 154 TWh, and by 20% compared to the fourth quarter of 2011. This increase in volumes concerns all maturities (weekly to annual), while being more pronounced for Month and Year contracts. The increase in volumes is mainly due to the rise in trading activity on the brokers platforms which concentrate most of the trading activity on the term products, and the rise was less significant at the power exchange.

The day-ahead baseload prices on EPEX SPOT established on average at € 46.5 /MWh, corresponding to an increase of 5% compared to the previous quarter and of 9% compared to the fourth quarter of 2011. **The spread between French and German prices strongly increased during the quarter** and French baseload prices remained higher than German ones for most of the period, except for several days, including end of December when negative hourly prices in Germany temporarily reversed the spread. **The spreads on calendar contracts continued to widen between France and Germany:** baseload prices decreased in France (€ 49.3 /MWh) and in Germany (€ 46.7 /MWh).

The generation rate of nuclear power plant averaged 76.1% in the fourth quarter of 2012 versus 73.3% at the same period last year, because of a higher availability rate of nuclear power plants (82.4% in 2012 versus 78.0% in 2011 over the fourth quarter). **Hydro stocks level increased** from 69% early October to 71% at the end of December. **Imports increased too compared to the previous quarter** despite the increase in nuclear generation rate, due to the strong increase in consumption and exports. The net exports balance amounted to a volume of 12.7 TWh, which represents a 17% increase in comparison to the third quarter 2012.

Gas wholesale market

Regarding the French wholesale gas market, intermediated traded volumes increased by 20% compared to the previous quarter but dropped by 12% compared to the fourth quarter 2011. The decline of traded volumes during 2012 was mainly driven by the term contracts markets. In the course of the fourth quarter 2012, a volume of 61 TWh was traded on the term market representing a premium of 26% compared to the previous quarter and a decrease of 14% relative to the same period in 2011. Traded volumes on the spot market recorded 31 TWh in the fourth quarter 2012, up by 8% compared to the previous quarter and went down by 7% relative to the fourth quarter 2011.

At the PEG Nord, day-ahead prices reached € 27.3/ MWh representing a premium of 9% compared to the previous quarter and 16% relative to the fourth quarter 2011. Day-ahead prices evolved in similar manner across European hubs. Nevertheless, NBP prices were slightly higher than prices in other parts of the Europe. Term contracts prices gained 3% on average compared to the previous quarter and 10% relative to the fourth quarter 2011.

The spread between day-ahead prices on the PEG Nord and the PEG Sud dropped over the fourth quarter 2012, recording € 0.5/MWh as against € 2.8/MWh in the previous quarter. The most significant price spread during the fourth quarter was recorded in the 29th October (€ 2.8/MWh). This latter is due to milder temperatures and limited storage withdrawals in Zone Sud due to constraints of filling of storage.

As a reminder, CRE opened an investigation into natural gas prices in the south of France¹.

¹ Press Release published on 07/27/2012: <http://www.cre.fr/documents/presse/communiqués-de-presse/la-cre-ouvre-une-enquete-sur-les-prix-de-marche-du-gaz-au-sud-de-la-france/consulter-le-communiqué-de-presse>

Definitions

Since the total market opening as of 1st July 2007, consumers can choose from two different types of contracts:

- *Contracts at regulated end-user price: regulated tariffs offered only by incumbent suppliers.*
- *Contracts at market price are offered by both, incumbent and alternative suppliers, that fix freely their prices.*

The market is divided into two categories of segments:

- *Residential sites, which are the households.*
- *Non residential sites, which regroup all the other consumers: professionals, large industrial sites, administrations, etc.*

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