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OTE, a.s.

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A record number of customers changed their supplier again last year

The energy market experienced a very dynamic year last year. Almost 600,000 electricity customers and more than 200,000 gas customers decided to change their energy supplier as the statistics of the market operator shows. It is a record year, with the exception of the crisis years 2021 and 2022, which were affected by the termination of the activities of some large suppliers of both commodities.

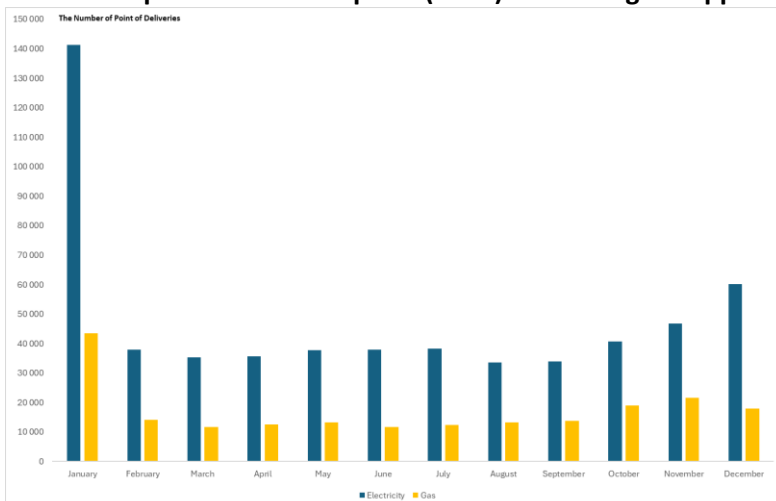
"These statistics show that the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic is functioning. Customers know how to orient themselves in the market environment, they follow the development of prices and the various price offers associated with it, from which they choose the most advantageous one," says Igor Chemišinec, vice-chairman of the OTE board of directors.

More customers changed suppliers only in 2021, when the energy crisis began. At that time, however, the changes were caused mainly by the unexpected termination of the activities of some large suppliers. Therefore, customers could now change supplier due to a more interesting offer from suppliers, the end of fixed-term contracts or better information about the market situation. The end of fixed-term contracts also contributes to the fact that most changes accumulate at the beginning of the calendar year. It follows from the data that most often customers switched to "traditional" suppliers.

"The electricity market in the Czech Republic is open to all consumers of electricity and gas. Each of them can choose a supplier according to their decision. I am pleased that the market operator and its system are handling these transitions without any problems and contributes to the development of the energy industry as a whole", says Michal Puchel, chairman of the board of OTE.

At the end of 2024, more than 6.3 million electricity take-off points, which are connected to the Czech electricity system, and almost 2.8 million gas take-off points, which are connected to the Czech gas system, were registered in the OTE system. In addition to supplier changes, the OTE system also records all measured electricity and gas deliveries and withdrawals of individual suppliers into the system and their assignment to the relevant billing entities.

Number of points of consumption (OPM) that changed suppliers during 2024



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OTE, a.s., holds a license for market operator activities, which includes the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic. A Nominated Electricity Market Organizer (NEMO) is established by the Energy Regulatory Office, which ensures a unified connection of the day and intraday markets. It acts as the National Administrator of the Permit Trading Register.

As a market operator and nominated organizer of the electricity market, OTE ensures, among other things, the organization of trading on the daily, intraday electricity market and the intraday gas market in the Czech Republic, and in this activity participates in the organization of the unified EU electricity market. It performs accounting and financial settlement of deviations between the contractual and actual values of electricity and gas supplies and withdrawals and ensures the administrative change of the supplier of both commodities. Furthermore, it provides the participants of the electricity and gas market in the Czech Republic with continuous processing and exchange of data and documents for their activities on the electricity market and the gas market, and reports business data from short-term OTE markets to the database of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Authorities (ACER).

In the name of the Czech Republic and on its account, it supplies settlement entities or takes gas from them when receiving or providing international aid in the gas industry. It administers and pays out compensation payments according to the Act on Measures for the Czech Republic's Transition to Low-Carbon Energy.

It is responsible for the administration of the system for the payment of support for supported energy sources. It issues and registers guarantees of the origin of energy and keeps records of the implementation of the use of renewable resources in transport. It ensures many other activities contributing to the development of the energy sector in the Czech Republic and Europe.

More information can be found at www.ote-cr.cz.