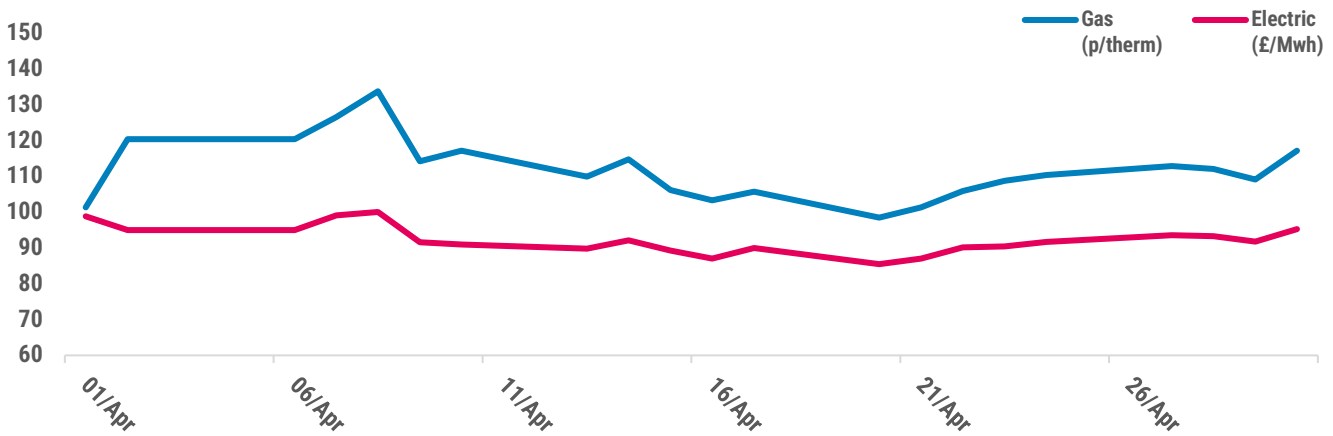


ENERGY MARKET UPDATE

APRIL 2026



YEAR AHEAD WHOLESALE GAS AND ELECTRICITY PRICE

UK wholesale gas and power markets showed continued volatility throughout April 2026, with various upward trends across both commodities, in particular regarding gas, as the month progressed.

At the start of April, elevated prices from the late-March levels, either held or attracted further gains, driven by ongoing conflict in the Middle East and persistent concerns over global gas and LNG (liquefied natural gas) supply.

Market sentiment continued to be heavily influenced by tensions involving Iran, with fears of supply disruption, potential

sanctions, and constrained exports maintaining significant upward pressure.

During the first half of the month, gas in particular fluctuated within a firm upward range as uncertainty remained high around delivery of the commodity.

Volatility (within-day price swings) continued through the month, with prices ticking up at times amid heightened geopolitical risk, particularly concerns over disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global energy flows where any restriction threatens a substantial share of LNG and oil transit.

Gas prices peaked in the first week of April and the last, easing slightly in between with periods of temporary deescalation. Power prices broadly mirrored this trend but moved more gradually, increasing at times before levelling off in the final week as markets absorbed ongoing developments and risk premiums stabilised.

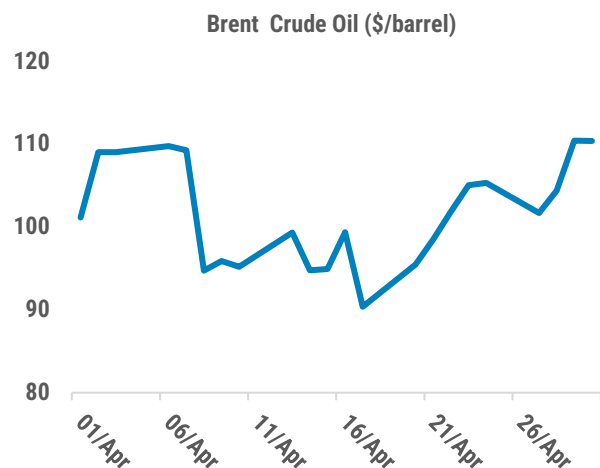
Overall, April was characterised by a firm upward trend with notable volatility, driven largely by geopolitical tensions and conflict-related supply risks. Gas markets continued to lead movements, while power prices followed more steadily, as traders maintained a strong focus on ongoing conflict risk and the potential for further escalation.

BRENT CRUDE OIL

Brent crude oil prices moved sharply higher during April 2026, with pronounced volatility driven largely by escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Prices began the month in the low-\$100s per barrel but climbed quickly as the conflict involving Iran intensified and concerns grew over potential disruption to key supply routes.

Much of the upward momentum was linked to risks surrounding shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical transit point for global oil flows. Ongoing instability in the region heightened fears of supply constraints, prompting prices to push decisively through the \$100 per barrel level and peak above and around \$110 during the month.

Although prices dropped at times, Brent crude oil remained above \$100 per barrel, closing significantly higher than where it began, and underscoring the persistent geopolitical risk premium embedded in the market.



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