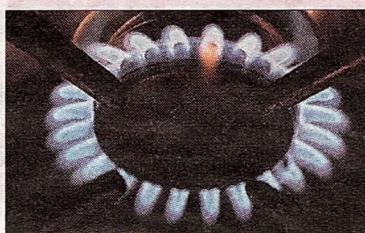


Rob Davies and Mark Sweeney

Number of people across the UK unable to pay energy bills if the cap rises in October - Citizens Advice



Households were hit with multi-jole price increases from VAT on hospital council tax and VAT on hospital
ability to broadband and phone bills,
addition to the cost of living crisis,
with inflation forecast to hit a 40-year
high this year. As snow and hail fall
across the UK this week, families and
communities spoke of having to turn off
the heating and disconnect broad-
band instead of risking the strain of energy
use during a power cut.

The meter reading page of British Gas, one of the UK's biggest suppliers, was displaying an error message yes, terday morning, while E.ON and EDF were also battling to connect a home to the grid, paid to connect a home to the grid, have been criticised for its poor record in penalising those on low incomes, "In the new price cap the same, "In the new price cap the same, said David Osmon of Ideal Eco-homes, "I'm afraid charge is about £300 [a year]," at Ofgem, "For the poorest 10% of households this amounts to a third of the meter readers of supplies.

The average household dual fuel bill poised to double inside a year - the average annual gas and electric-
tariff jumped from £1,278 to £1,971 at mid-night, as the energy regulator raised the price cap by 54% on bills to settle sky-high wholesale gas prices.
Analysts at Comwell Insights predicted the £1,971 price cap within a 3% margin of error, said they now expect the next price cap increase, due in October, to result in the aver- age tariff jumping to £2,599.92.

This would mean bills having doubled inside a year, it said, plus pressure on the channel to help poor households, who experts have warned face a choice between heating and eating.

"While the government's £350 worth of support will provide some respite to consumers this time around - albeit not far enough - with the cap almost guaranteed to rise again, the gap will still need to be filled," he added.

Sunak urged to do more to help poorest households as slew of price rises kick in