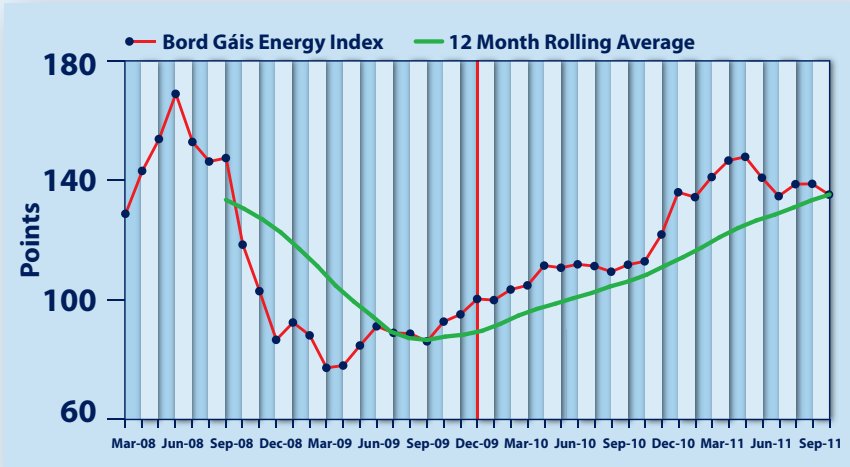


# **Bord Gáis Energy Index**

SEPTEMBER 2011

## GAS AND COAL PRICES INCREASE BUT A DROP IN OIL PRICES PUSH ENERGY INDEX DOWN 3% - INDEX 21% HIGHER THAN SEPTEMBER 2010

Bord Gáis Energy Index (Dec 31st 2009 = 100)



1 Mth **-3%**    3 Mth **0%**    12 Mth **21%**

### OVERALL SUMMARY:

The Bord Gáis energy index fell 3% to 135 in September finishing the month below its 12 month rolling average for the first time in 2 years.

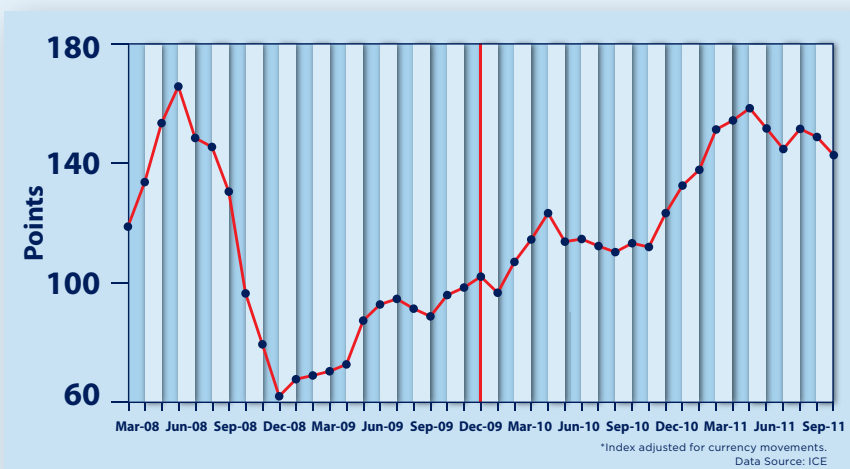
Fears of a second global recession in three years saw oil tumble \$12 per barrel over the month.

However, the fall in prices was significantly offset in Europe by a 7% depreciation of the Euro versus the US Dollar. This resulted in a net 4% decline in oil prices in Euro terms.

Similarly a 1% increase in UK gas prices translated to a 4% increase in Euro terms due to a weakening of the Euro currency versus Sterling.

The Greek debt crisis, concerns around a number of European banking institutions and weak economic data out of the US all contributed to fears of another global recession.

### Oil Index



1 Mth **-4%**    3 Mth **-1%**    12 Mth **26%**

### OIL

Oil prices fell steadily during September as fears of a second global recession continued.

The EU authorities' failure to take decisive action to deal with the sovereign debt crisis in Greece and weak economic data out of the US pointed towards a second global slowdown in three years.

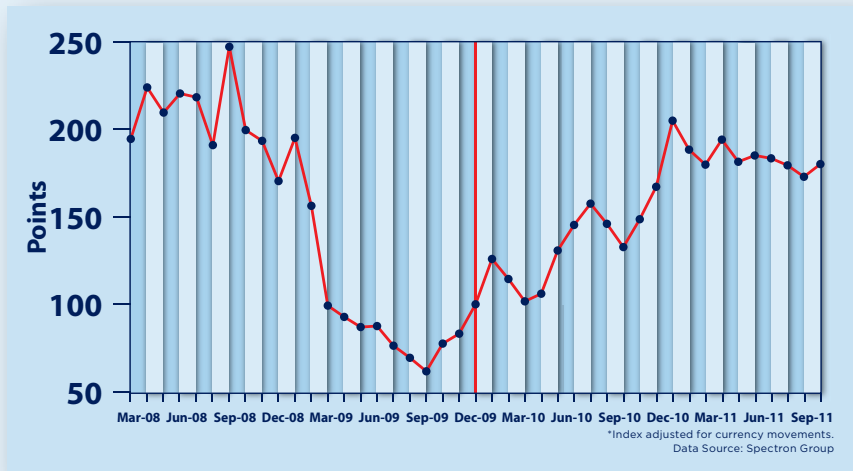
Oil production in Libya restarted after falling to almost zero in February when rebels began their assault on the Gaddafi regime. Reports predicting production of 500k barrels per day by the end of October further depressed oil prices as the threat of a fall in demand loomed.

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SEPTEMBER 2011



## Natural Gas Index



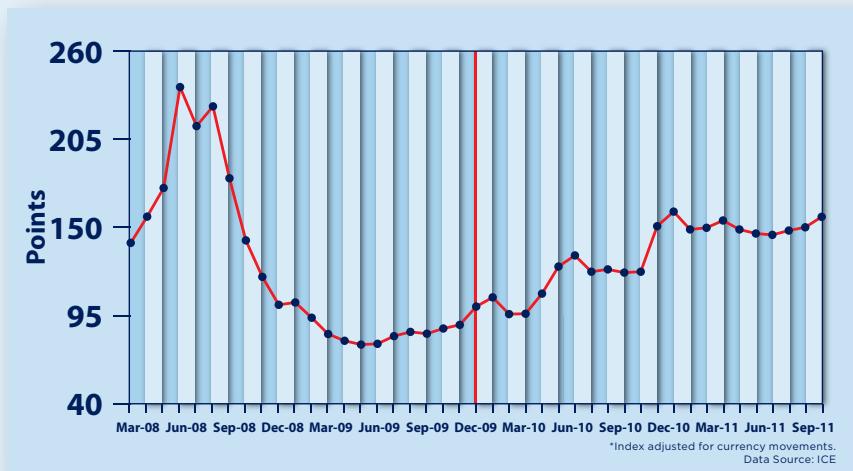
1 Mth **4%** 3 Mth **-2%** 12 Mth **18%**

## NATURAL GAS

The traditional September maintenance of fields, pipelines, LNG infrastructure and various other parts of the natural gas infrastructure in advance of the winter peak demand pushed prices higher in front half of the month. This was followed by unseasonably warm temperatures at the end of the month pushing prices lower on weak demand.

The commodity traded as high as 60 p/therm and as low as 46 p/therm during the month eventually averaging 54 p/therm.

## Coal Index



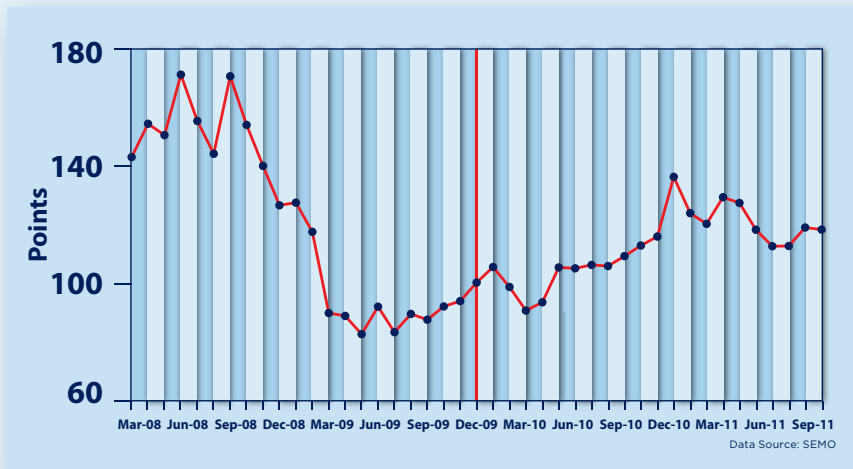
1 Mth **4%** 3 Mth **8%** 12 Mth **29%**

## COAL

Coal prices remained relatively stable in September. The commodity has now traded in a narrow \$122 to \$126 range for five straight months.

September saw sporadic European demand for the commodity due to relatively high stock levels across the continent which was primarily being met by Colombian, Russian and US cargoes.

## Electricity Index



1 Mth **-1%** 3 Mth **5%** 12 Mth **8%**

## ELECTRICITY

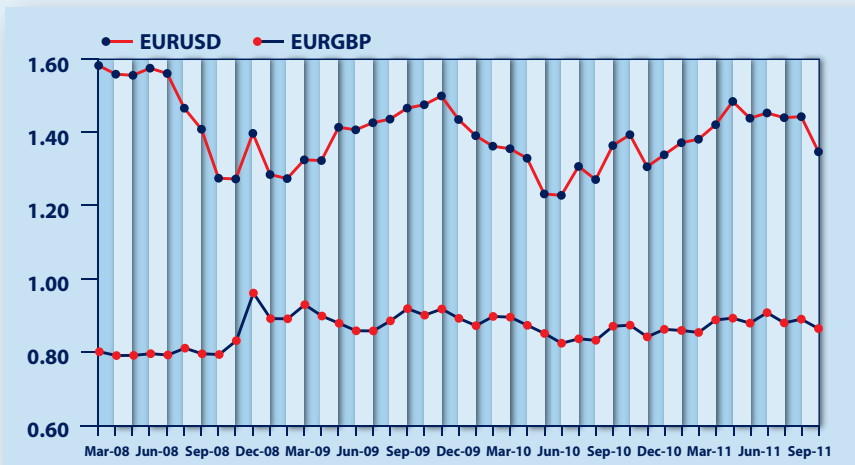
Electricity prices fell slightly in September. This was despite the increase in fuel prices which were offset by an increase in wind output on the Irish grid this month. This reduced the need for more expensive thermal plant to meet demand.

# Bord Gáis Energy Index

SEPTEMBER 2011



## FX Rates



1 Mth	<b>-7%</b>	3 Mth	<b>-7%</b>	12 Mth	<b>-1%</b>	EURUSD
1 Mth	<b>-3%</b>	3 Mth	<b>-5%</b>	12 Mth	<b>-1%</b>	EURGBP

## FX RATES

The Euro closed September at \$1.34, its lowest level versus the US Dollar since January. This off set some of the fall in oil prices and all of the fall in coal prices for Irish consumers.

The Euro finished the month at its lowest level versus Sterling since March making natural gas relatively more expensive for Irish consumers.

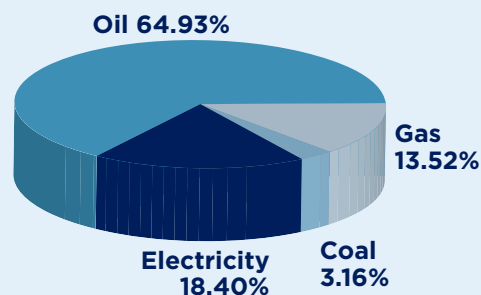
The Bord Gáis Energy Index would have fallen 7% in September, but due to the fluctuations in the Euro versus both the US Dollar and Sterling, the index fell only 3%.

## MARKET OUTLOOK:

Oil futures markets indicate the possibility of a fall in oil prices over the coming months. Oil prices have averaged \$111.50 in 2011 to date. Natural gas prices in continental Europe for the coming winter are linked to oil prices from the preceding 3 to 9 months. This opens the possibility of a rise in gas prices should another cold winter outturn or a problem arise with the natural gas infrastructure in the UK. As the cold, dark winter months approach, more inefficient thermal plant may be required to meet the higher electricity demand levels, this may lead to an increase in prices over the coming months. The Bord Gáis Energy Index will also be influenced by macro economic issues and the possibility of the world economy slipping into another recession.

## RE-WEIGHTING OF BORD GÁIS ENERGY INDEX:

Following the SEAI's 2009 review of energy consumption in Ireland, released in Q4 2010, there was a 9.3% drop in overall energy consumption. The most notable drop of 1.39% was in oil consumption in the form of gasoline and diesel. This reflects the economic downturn experienced at the time. The share of natural gas and electricity increased by 0.63% and 0.57% respectively. An increase in the use of renewables and peat, at the expense of coal in electricity generation was also observed. As a result the Bord Gáis Energy Index has been reweighted to reflect the latest consumption data. This has had a minimal effect on the overall shape of the Index, but may indicate future trends.



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