

# VIC ANALYSIS OF SMALL BUSINESS RETAIL ENERGY BILLS



KEY FINDINGS FROM ENERGY CONSUMERS AUSTRALIA'S JUNE 2023  
SME RETAIL TARIFF TRACKER REPORT

**Electricity** bills were, on average, **18% higher across Australia** for businesses consuming 20,000 kWh compared to a year ago, and were **14% higher in VIC**.

Meanwhile, **gas** bills were, on average, **22% higher across Australia** for businesses consuming 100 GJ compared to a year ago, and were **38% higher in VIC**.

## ELECTRICITY BILLS

Average annual electricity bills for businesses consuming 20,000 kWh per annum in VIC are between **\$5,085** and **\$7,780**, depending on the network area. This is an **increase of between 10% and 18%** (\$475 and \$1,170) from a year ago.

The average annual **maximum price-spread** is the greatest in the Jemena Network (\$2,870). The **price-spread has increased** in all networks from six months ago.

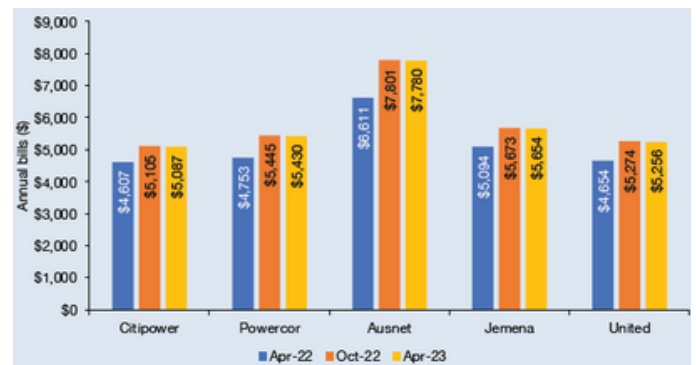
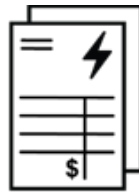


Chart 61: trend of estimated average annual electricity bills in VIC, since April 2022, for SMEs using 20,000 kWh (single rate). GST inclusive.

## GAS BILLS

Average annual gas bills for businesses consuming 100 GJ per annum in VIC are **\$2,250** and **\$3,620**, depending on the pricing zone. This is a **decrease of 4% or increase of 39%** depending on the pricing zone, from a year ago.

The average annual **maximum price-spread** is highest in the Multinet 2 pricing zone, at \$1,245. It has **decreased by \$330** on average across all pricing zones, from six months ago.

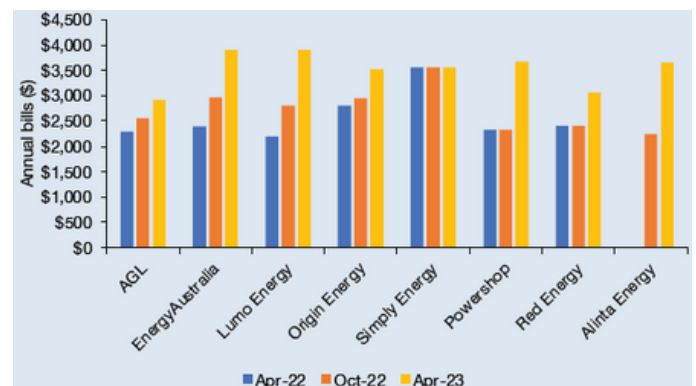


Chart 67: trend of estimated average annual gas bills in VIC, since April 2022, for SMEs using 100 GJ. GST inclusive.

## CASE STUDY: CONSUMPTION LEVELS IN VICTORIA

In Victoria, small businesses are defined as **using less than 40,000 kWh pa**, much lower than other jurisdictions.

For this report, we obtained energy bills from five small businesses to complement our broader analysis.

A **restaurant** in the Citipower network consumes 91,500 kWh pa and is therefore classified as **medium sized**.



This means it is **not eligible** for the Commonwealth's Energy Relief Fund.

As a medium-sized business, they are on a seasonal demand tariff with a **much higher supply charge** than small businesses.

If the restaurant was located in a **different state** they would be treated as a small business, meaning they would be **eligible for relief** and a **lower supply charge**.