

# Electricity Switching - August 2018

## Switching soars despite sweltering summer

Energy UK's latest switching figures reveal that nearly 1.5 million (1,453,622) customers switched electricity supplier over the summer months (June-August), despite record-breaking temperatures across the country.

Just under half a million customers (494,839) switched in August 2018, up 11% on the same month last year. This takes the total number of electricity switches in 2018 to over 3.7 million, well on course to beat last year's record figure of 5.5 million

Confidence in switching remains high with nine in 10 customers saying that they are happy with the process according to latest research from the Energy Switch Guarantee, an industry trust mark to provide consumers with confidence that switching is simple, speedy and safe. The Guarantee - which is a voluntary set of commitments made by signatories to switch customers, send final bills and refunds within specific time limits as well as taking responsibility for all the arrangements - now covers over 90 percent of suppliers by market share.

Pamela Taylor, independent chair of the Energy Switch Guarantee, said:

"With more than 70 suppliers in the market there is more choice than ever before. Despite the recently announced price cap, switching tariffs remains the best way for consumers to get the best deals in the market. Look out for the Energy Switch Guarantee logo to find suppliers who will provide a simple, speedy and safe means to switch."

Lawrence Slade, chief executive of Energy UK, said:

"Despite record-breaking temperatures, it is great to see that nearly 1.5 million people have made a switch this summer.

"Competition is thriving in the energy market and ever-increasing numbers of customers switch every year - with a record 5.5million doing so last year. It is vital that these positive steps, which deliver benefits for customers, are not undone as a result of policy decisions with Ofgem's own impact assessment suggesting falls in switching of up to 40% as a result of the proposed price cap.

"We will be monitoring numbers closely and hope that consumers up and down the country continue to benefit from the competitive market."

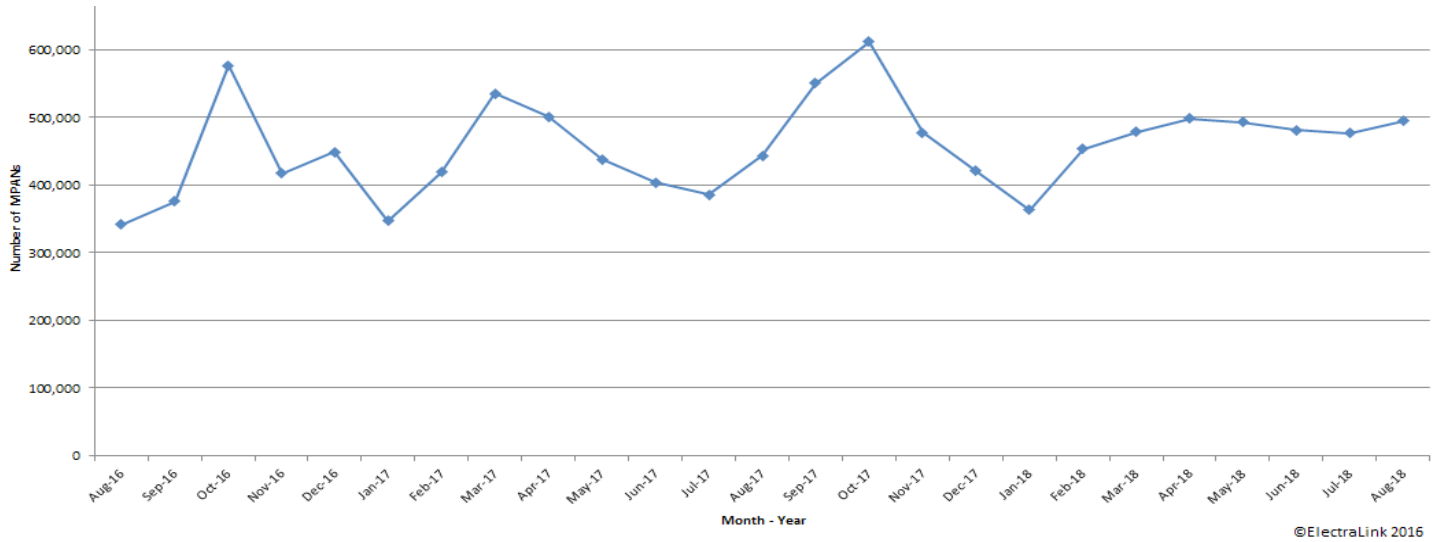
## Notes for editors

- ▶ In August, around an additional 90,000 electricity switches occurred as Iresa customers were transferred to Octopus Energy. These have been discounted from the numbers above.
- ▶ [To see the latest monthly switching stats, please visit Energy UK's website.](#)
- ▶ Over 90 per cent of suppliers (by market share) are signatories of the Guarantee. For more information about the Guarantee: [www.energyswitchguarantee.com](http://www.energyswitchguarantee.com).
- ▶ The switching data is supplied by Electralink who provides a secure service to transfer data between the electricity market participants. The company operates the Data Transfer Network (DTN) which underpins customer switching, meter interoperability and other business processes critical to a competitive electricity market.
- ▶ The data referenced in these reports is since our collection of data only and is for electricity only. These figures include both domestic & non-domestic customers.
- ▶ These figures do not include internal electricity switching, statistics on this from the larger suppliers and on Standard Variable Tariffs can be viewed on the [Ofgem website](#).

# Change of Supply Event

A 'Change of Supply Event' is the industry term for describing when a domestic or non-domestic customer moves from one supplier to another. The total number of electricity switches in August was 494,839.

Graph 1: Number of change of supply events

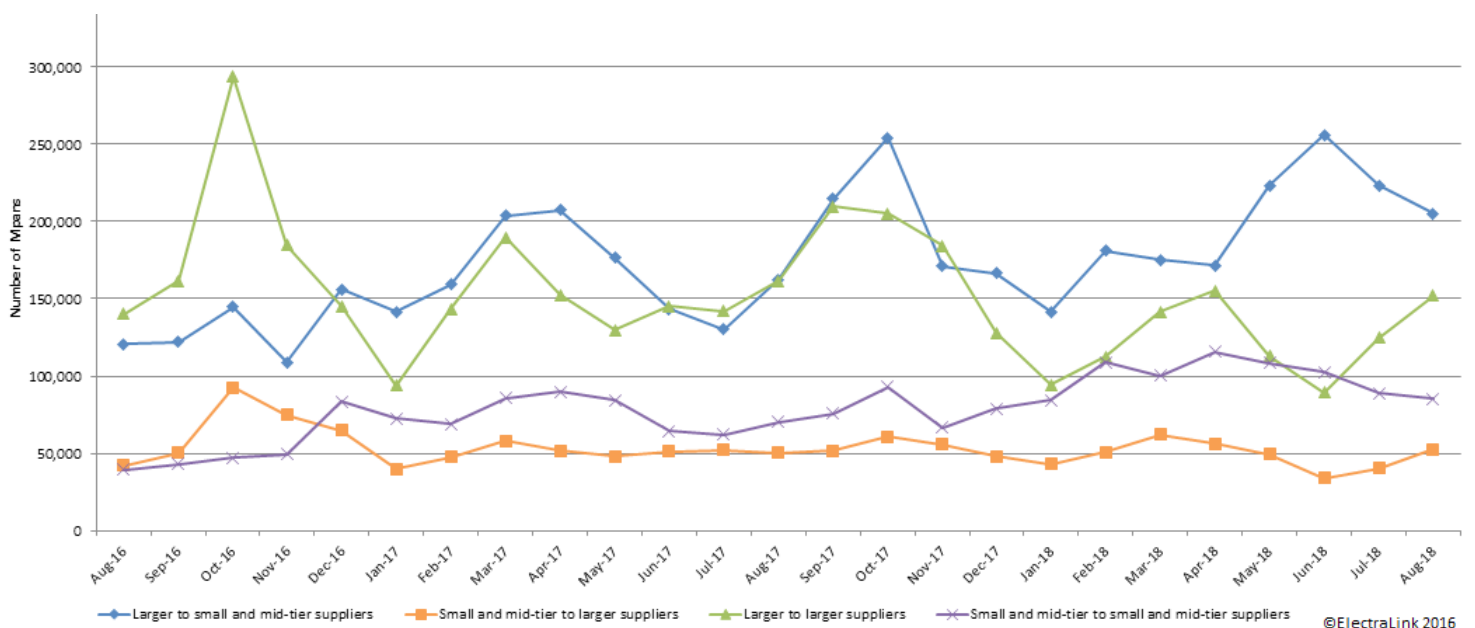


## Movement between supplier groups

In August 2018, of all switches:

- ▶ 41% were from larger to small and mid-tier suppliers
- ▶ 11% were from small and mid-tier to larger suppliers
- ▶ 31% were between larger suppliers
- ▶ 17% were between small and mid-tier suppliers

Graph 2: Movement between small and mid-tier and larger suppliers



Source: Electralink

## Gains by small and mid-tier suppliers

In August the net gain by small and mid-tier suppliers was 152,348 this is 31% of all switches.

\*Net gain is the number of switches from larger to small and mid-tier suppliers minus the number of switches from small and mid-tier to larger suppliers.

Table 1: A breakdown of all switches

Month Year	Larger to small and mid-tier suppliers	Small and mid-tier to larger suppliers	Larger to larger suppliers	Small and mid-tier to small and mid-tier suppliers	Total switches
Aug-18	205,109	52,761	151,858	85,111	494,839
Jul-18	223,173	40,359	124,643	88,931	477,106
Jun-18	255,888	33,825	89,478	102,486	481,677
May-18	223,182	49,413	112,933	108,384	493,912
Apr-18	171,616	56,099	154,959	115,523	498,197
Mar-18	174,946	62,054	141,663	100,068	478,731
Feb-18	181,211	50,655	112,588	109,106	453,560
Jan-18	141,521	43,219	94,212	84,465	363,417
Dec-17	166,591	48,277	127,791	79,043	421,702
Nov-17	171,158	55,931	184,459	66,846	478,394
Oct-17	254,090	60,666	204,976	92,972	612,704
Sep-17	214,735	51,461	209,610	75,637	551,443
Aug-17	162,382	50,450	161,705	70,116	444,653
Jul-17	130,332	51,962	142,038	62,175	386,507
Jun-17	143,155	51,410	145,028	64,580	404,173
May-17	176,350	48,170	129,774	84,247	438,541
Apr-17	207,252	51,694	152,448	89,918	501,312
Mar-17	203,631	58,006	189,467	85,554	536,658
Feb-17	159,355	47,689	143,561	68,994	419,599
Jan-17	141,692	39,854	93,912	72,328	347,786
Dec-16	156,318	64,765	145,275	83,563	449,921
Nov-16	108,903	74,924	184,553	49,459	417,839
Oct-16	144,552	92,632	293,708	46,918	577,810
Sep-16	121,969	50,325	161,344	42,873	376,511
Aug-16	120,485	42,246	140,321	39,407	342,459

## Change of Supply definition

► Change of supply is an event in which a customer intends to switch electricity supply from their current supplier to a new supplier. When there is no objection from the old supplier and all the requisite intermediate processes are completed, the new supplier starts supplying the customer's premises. The number of change of supply events shown is the total number of changes from one supplier to another which have completed in the month and where the new supplier has started supplying the electricity.