

6 July 2026

## Contents

**Business is not booming: UK small businesses fight for survival as energy bills soar**  
Publication date: 18 January 2023

### **Gas Strategies Group**

10 Saint Bride Street  
London UK  
EC4A 4AD

ISSN: 0964-8496

T: +44(0) 20 7332 9900  
W: [www.gasstrategies.com](http://www.gasstrategies.com)  
Twitter @GasStrategies

### **Editorials**

+44(0) 20 7332 9957  
[editor@gasstrategies.com](mailto:editor@gasstrategies.com)

### **Subscriptions**

+44(0) 20 7332 9976  
[subscriptions@gasstrategies.com](mailto:subscriptions@gasstrategies.com)



# Business is not booming: UK small businesses fight for survival as energy bills soar

**Get the inside line. Take a free trial of Gas Strategies Information Services:**

- Full access to Gas Matters, Gas Matters Today & LNG Business Review
- Access to our fully searchable archives containing
- Daily, weekly and monthly newsletters bringing the latest news and features to your inbox
- Gas Strategies iOS app

Free trial code **GS22**

Complimentary access

Times are tough for small businesses in the UK. Those that survived the Covid-19 lockdowns of 2020-21 now face soaring energy costs, a situation that began in 2021, when wholesale gas and power price increases – caused in part by fierce competition between European and Asian buyers for LNG cargoes – prompted closures among regional energy suppliers, leading to bill prices skyrocketing.

Over 30 UK energy providers collapsed between 2021 and 2022, including Bulb Energy, which had 1.7 million customers and was placed into special administration in November 2021.

The situation in the UK was aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Though the UK's reliance on Russia for natural gas prior to the war was minimal – just 4% of all gas consumed in 2021 – compared to other European nations, the volatility in the rest of Europe's gas markets crossed the Channel, leading to the UK NBP front-month contract peaking at GBp 640.36/th in late August 2022.

**Consulting**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9900  
[consult@gasstrategies.com](mailto:consult@gasstrategies.com)

**Alphatania Training**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9910  
[training@gasstrategies.com](mailto:training@gasstrategies.com)

**Information Services**

+44 (0) 20 7332 9976  
[subscriptions@gasstrategies.com](mailto:subscriptions@gasstrategies.com)