

# How typically volatile electricity prices affect companies.

Many companies fail to develop a strategy to proactively manage their electricity costs, even though it's one of their top five expenses. As a result, fluctuations in pricing can have harmful — and expensive — effects on the company. In this infographic, learn the extent of commercial electricity consumption and how typical price volatility can impact companies' budgets.

**2.3 billion** megawatt hours  
Total electricity consumed by U.S. commercial and industrial companies in 2016

**213 billion** megawatt hours  
Amount commercial and industrial customers spent on power in 2016

## The cost of powering a company

Major energy sources used in commercial buildings:

- 61%** electricity
- 32%** natural gas
- 5%** district heat
- 2%** fuel oil

Top electricity use in large offices:

- 26%** ventilation
- 24%** miscellaneous
- 17%** cooling
- 17%** computer
- 16%** lighting

The top 5 energy-consuming building categories use 50% of the energy consumed by commercial buildings:

- 15%** mercantile and service
- 14%** office
- 10%** education
- 8%** healthcare
- 6%** lodging

## Change happens — often

Factors that influence electricity prices:

- Fuel costs
- Power plant costs
- Transmission and distribution system maintenance costs
- Weather conditions
- Regulations

**18%**  
Amount commercial customers saw energy rates fluctuate in 2015

**50%**  
Amount industrial customers saw energy rates vary in 2015

With these fluctuations, it can be difficult for your company to budget for the future. However, with the right energy purchasing strategy, your company can be better equipped to anticipate costs and make long term budgeting decisions.

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