

Water and wastewater tariff rates to increase by 9.8% on 1st October

Summary:

On 14 July, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) published its decision for Uisce Éireann's non-domestic water and wastewater tariffs to increase by 9.8% for 2025/26. At a time of exceptional international and economic uncertainty, the timing of these tariff increases is extremely unfortunate. The increases will take effect on 1 October 2025.

Uisce Éireann will be contacting all non-domestic customers over the summer months to advise them of the changes, including their customer class and estimated bill for the coming tariff year. A dedicated online calculator has been developed to help customers understand the impact of the tariff changes - [Business Tariff Calculator](#).

Impact:

The proposed non-domestic tariff increases are coming at a time of significant cost and competitiveness pressures. Considering the already significant increase in water tariffs in October 2024, the 9.8% increase from CRU's decision may mean that, in a single calendar year, some businesses might face standing charge increases of more than 110% and volumetric charge increases of more than 40% by October 2025.

Expected tariff on 1 October 2025:

	Tariff element	Customer class	Pre-Oct 2024		CRU Oct. 2025	
			Tariff	Current Tariff	Decision	Calendar Year Increase
WATER	Standing charges (€ per annum)	Band 1	€ 43.76	€83.02	€91.16	108.3%
		Band 2	€113.31	€218.11	€239.48	111.3%
		Band 3	€1,872.98	€3,708.61	€4,072.05	117.4%
		Band 4	€21,771.46	€41,332.17	€45,382.72	108.5%
		Band 5	-	€295,967.72	€324,972.56	-
	Volumetric charge (€ per cubic metre)	Band 1	€1.87	€2.19	€2.40	28.3%
		Band 2	€1.30	€1.68	€1.84	41.5%
		Band 3	€1.21	€1.56	€1.71	41.3%
		Band 4	€1.05	€1.38	€1.52	44.8%
		Band 5	-	€1.27	€1.39	-
WASTEWATER	Standing charges (€ per annum)	Band 1	€44.81	€75.43	€82.82	84.8%
		Band 2	€135.79	€238.34	€261.70	92.7%
		Band 3	€1,969.50	€3,849.75	€4,227.03	114.6%
		Band 4	€25,266.78	€38,652.54	€42,440.49	68.0%
	Volumetric charge (€ per cubic metre)	Band 1	€1.92	€2.34	€2.57	33.9%
		Band 2	€1.82	€2.28	€2.50	37.4%
		Band 3	€1.81	€2.23	€2.45	35.4%
		Band 4	€1.75	€2.19	€2.40	37.1%

Source: CRU

The decision to update the non-domestic tariff framework could be devastating to businesses of all sizes in the current economic and trading environment and could undermine competitiveness.

The impact of these rate increases could be significant to many sectors, including SMEs, such as:

- > Food & Drink, including businesses who use water as a raw material (Beverages) and as part of industrial processes (Dairy, Beef, Prepared Consumer Foods).
- > Drinks Ireland, including Beer, Cider, Whiskey and Spirits.
- > BioPharmaChem, as part of their industrial processes.
- > Technology, including semiconductor manufacturing and data centres.
- > MedTech and Engineering, as part of industrial processes
- > Experience Economy, including hotels, bars and restaurants.

Ibec actions:

- > Ibec made a submission to the CRU consultation on non-domestic water and wastewater tariffs back in April 2025, recommending Government must cover the non-domestic water tariff increase for 2025/26.
- > Ibec's pre-budget submission calls on Government to cover the non-domestic water tariff increase for 2025/26. This would cost the exchequer €35 million.
- > Letter to Minister Browne calling for Government intervention.
- > Engage with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland.
- > Raise awareness of the issue with the Cost of Business Advisory Forum.

For more information:

Juan Pablo Martinez, Senior Executive – Environmental Sustainability Policy, Ibec (juanpablo.martinez@ibec.ie)