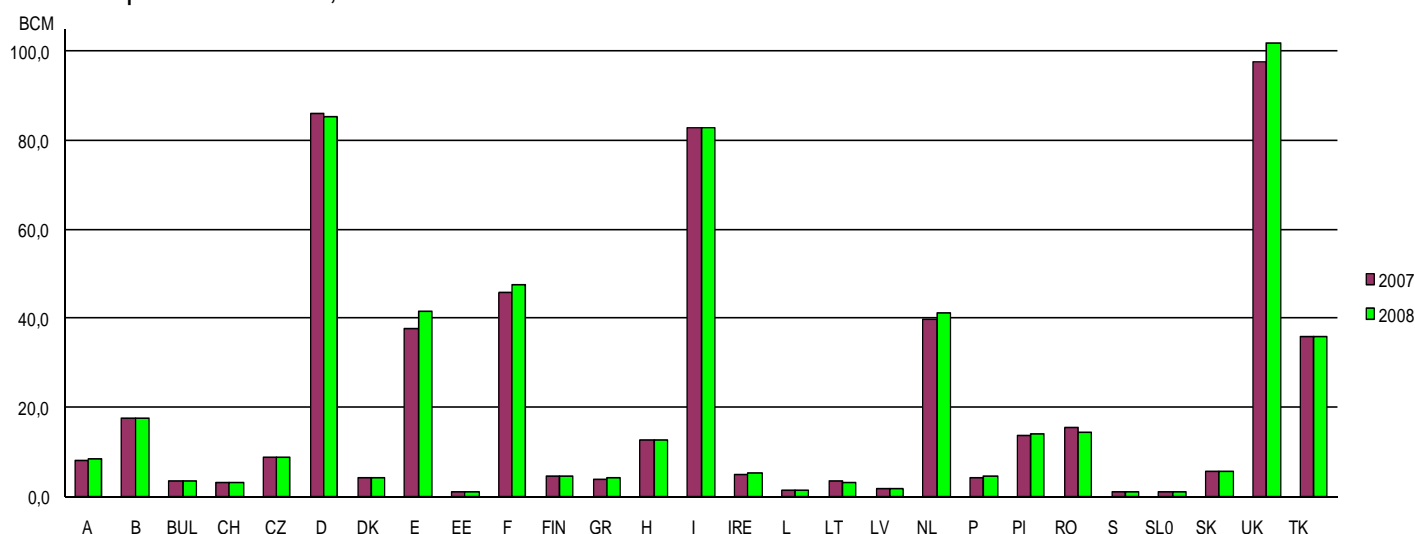


Natural Gas Consumption in EU27, Turkey and Switzerland in 2008

According to preliminary figures and estimates from Eurogas, total natural gas consumption in EU27 has increased by 2,1% in 2008 in comparison to 2007.

In the first estimates for 2008, natural gas consumption in EU27 amounted to 20157 peta joule (PJ), i.e. 517 billion cubic metres (BCM)¹, i.e. 433 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE)². This represents an increase of 2,1% compared to 2007.

At the end of 2008, the total number of gas customers connected to the EU27 natural gas grid rose by 1% in comparison to 2007, to reach 112 503 900 customers.



Although the natural gas markets of the different countries vary significantly, some general trends across Europe may explain this increase. After unusually warm temperatures in 2007, the weather returned to “normal” in 2008, which was the main factor explaining the natural gas consumption increase of 2,1% between 2007 and 2008. This trend was slightly reinforced as 2008 was a leap year bringing the total days of natural gas consumption to 366.

In most of the EU countries some trends can be distinguished in the first nine months of the year. Overall the residential sector registered stable consumption resulting mainly from a trade-off between generally colder weather and energy savings. The increase in the natural gas consumption could therefore be attributed to the higher demand in the power sector due to favourable natural gas prices against oil and coal. In all the EU countries however, the last quarter of 2008 saw significant slow down because of the drop of consumption in the industrial sector resulting from the economic crisis.

Indigenous production in the EU27 increased by 1,8% to 7899 PJ (202 Bcm) over the period, mainly as a result of increase in the production in the Netherlands (10,9%) and Denmark (9,4%), which compensated the downward trend observed in most of the other EU producing countries.

The highest percentage of gas supplied in the EU27 comes from indigenous production, covering 39% of the total net supplies in 2008. The main external sources of supply are Russia with 25%, Norway with 18% and Algeria with 10%. In total approximately 60% comes from western European fields.

Eurogas is the European Union of the Natural Gas Industry representing the European natural gas industries of 26 countries towards the European Commission and all other relevant international institutions and stakeholders. Web site: www.eurogas.org
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¹ Applied calorific value : 39MJ/cubic metre GCV

² Applied calorific value : 41.86 PJ/MTOE NCV

Developments in European Natural Gas Consumption 2007-2008

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2007																												
	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Switzerland	Czech Republic	Germany	Denmark	Spain	Estonia	France	Finland	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Ireland	Luxembourg	Lithuania	Latvia	The Netherlands	Portugal	Poland	Romania	Sweden	Slovenia	Slovakia	United Kingdom	Turkey	EU 27
PJ (peta joule)	317,5	681,0	133,3	122,5	337,5	3355,0	159,0	1468,0	39,8	1788,0	173,3	155,1	498,0	3234,5	195,3	53,4	133,8	63,5	1551,0	165,0	541,2	604,0	41,9	43,5	213,1	3804,6	1401,3	19750,3
BCM* (billion cubic meter)	8,1	17,5	3,4	3,1	8,7	86,0	4,1	37,6	1,0	45,8	4,4	4,0	12,8	82,9	5,0	1,4	3,4	1,6	39,8	4,2	13,9	15,5	1,1	1,1	5,5	97,6	35,9	506,4
MTOE* (million tons of oil equivalent)	6,8	14,6	2,9	2,6	7,3	72,1	3,4	31,6	0,9	38,4	3,7	3,3	10,7	69,5	4,2	1,1	2,9	1,4	33,3	3,5	11,6	13,0	0,9	0,9	4,6	81,8	30,1	424,6
billion kWh*	88,2	189,2	37,0	34,0	93,8	931,9	44,2	407,8	11,1	496,7	48,1	43,1	138,3	898,5	54,3	14,8	37,2	17,6	430,8	45,8	150,3	167,8	11,6	12,1	59,2	1056,8	389,3	5486,2

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2008 (PRELIMINARY)																												
	A	B	BUL	CH	CZ	D	DK	E	EE	F	FIN	GR	H	I	IRE	L	LT	LV	NL	P	PI	RO	S	SI	SK	UK	TK	EU27
PJ (peta joule)	335,6	687,3	130,6	128,2	337,5	3320,0	160,6	1616,0	39,1	1850,0	179,5	163,8	496,1	3229,5	205,2	50,5	120,2	62,8	1614,4	180,2	554,0	563,0	38,0	37,3	216,1	3970,1	1407,1	20157,4
BCM* (billion cubic meter)	8,6	17,6	3,3	3,3	8,7	85,1	4,1	41,4	1,0	47,4	4,6	4,2	12,7	82,8	5,3	1,3	3,1	1,6	41,4	4,6	14,2	14,4	1,0	1,0	5,5	101,8	36,1	516,9
MTOE* (million tons of oil equivalent)	7,2	14,8	2,8	2,8	7,3	71,4	3,5	34,7	0,8	39,8	3,9	3,5	10,7	69,4	4,4	1,1	2,6	1,4	34,7	3,9	11,9	12,1	0,8	0,8	4,6	85,4	30,3	433,4
billion kWh*	93,2	190,9	36,3	35,6	93,8	922,2	44,6	448,9	10,9	513,9	49,9	45,5	137,8	897,1	57,0	14,0	33,4	17,4	448,4	50,1	153,9	156,4	10,6	10,4	60,0	1102,8	390,9	5599,3

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION CHANGE 2007/2008 (PRELIMINARY)																												
	A	B	BUL	CH	CZ	D	DK	E	EE	F	FIN	GR	H	I	IRE	L	LT	LV	NL	P	PI	RO	S	SI	SK	UK	TK	EU27
%	5,7%	0,9%	-2,0%	4,7%	0,0%	-1,0%	1,0%	10,1%	-1,7%	3,5%	3,6%	5,6%	-0,4%	-0,2%	5,1%	-5,4%	-10,2%	-1,1%	4,1%	9,2%	2,4%	-6,8%	-9,3%	-14,3%	1,4%	4,3%	0,4%	2,1%

* The results are based on petajoule, the applied calorific values (39 MJ / cubic meter GCV, 41.86 PJ / MTOE NCV, NCV = 0.9 GCV) are representing an European average. Results in other units than petajoule shall give an indication and can vary for countries using a different conversion factor than the European average.