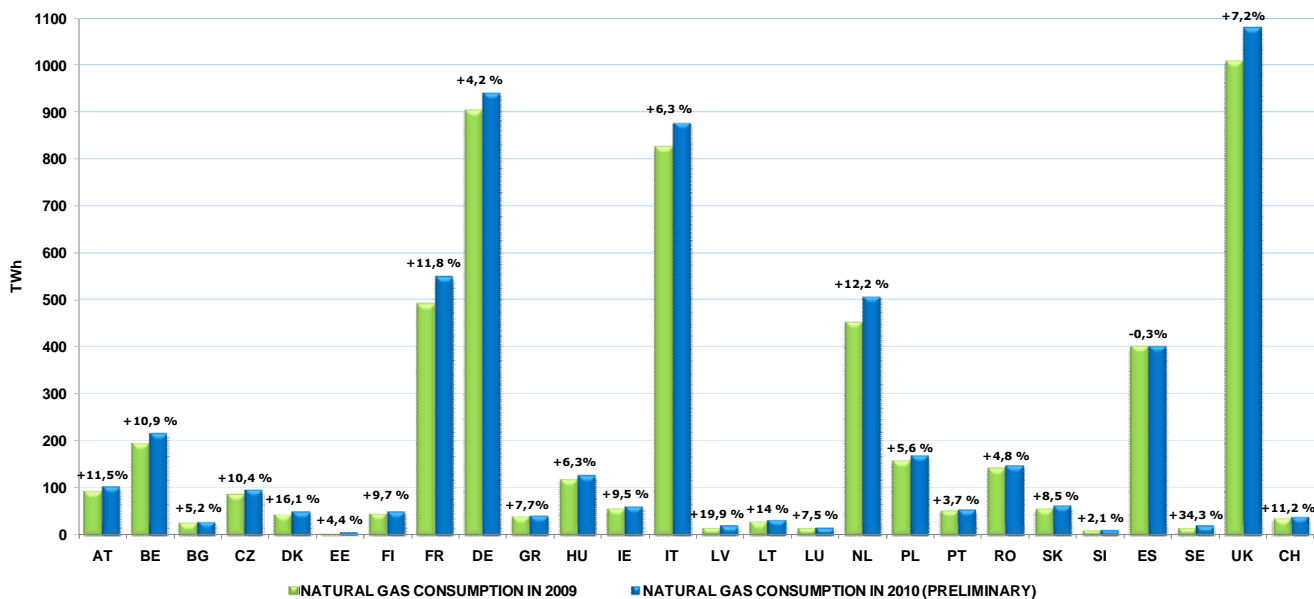


Natural Gas Consumption in the EU27 and Switzerland in 2010

According to preliminary figures and estimates from Eurogas, total natural gas consumption in EU27 has increased by 7,2% in 2010 in comparison to 2009.

The initial estimate for 2010 natural gas consumption in the EU27 is 5 655 terawatt hours (TWh GCV), equivalent to 522 billion cubic metres (BCM)¹, or 438 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE NCV)². This represents an increase of 7,2% compared to 2009.

At the end of 2010, the total number of gas customers connected to the EU27 natural gas grid rose by approximately 1% in comparison to 2009, to reach 115,4 million customers.



The economic downturn in Europe significantly affected the natural gas consumption in 2009, which registered its lowest levels since 2002. Although the natural gas markets vary significantly across Europe, in almost all EU countries, the natural gas demand between 2009 and 2010 increased by 7,2%. The gas demand growth in the EU27 was explained by a combination of the severe weather conditions and the economic recovery (1,8% real GDP growth³). Some general trends can be distinguished for most of the EU countries.

Due to cold weather conditions in 2010, natural gas demand increased strongly in the residential sector. An important driver of the gas sales growth was the industrial sector which registered a strong recovery in 2010 compared to 2009. This trend is illustrated by the 6,7% increase in the EU27 average production index for 2010⁴, compared to 2009. Alongside the industrial sector, the power sector played a large part in the total consumption growth. Higher electricity demand due to the economic recovery and switching to gas from other fuels have significantly increased the volume of gas used for power generation.

Indigenous gas production in the EU27 decreased by 4% to 1 904 TWh (176 BCM) over the period, mainly because of ongoing decline in the mature production basins.

The largest source of gas supplied to the EU27 comes from indigenous production, making up 34% of the total net supplies in 2010. Main external sources of supply were Russia at 23%, Norway at 19%, Algeria at 10% and Qatar at 6% which illustrated the increasing role of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the EU gas supply.

Web site: www.eurogas.org

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¹ Applied calorific value : 10.83 kWh/cubic metre GCV

² Applied calorific value : 11.63 TWh/MTOE NCV

³ Source: European Commission, EU interim forecast: Recovery gaining ground, 1 March 2011

⁴ Source Eurostat, 14 February 2011

Developments in European Natural Gas Consumption 2009-2010

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2010 (PRELIMINARY)																											
	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom	EU 27	Switzerland
TWh (Terawatt hours)	102,0	215,3	27,7	95,1	49,7	5,5	49,5	548,9	942,3	40,9	125,8	60,6	877,9	18,9	32,0	15,5	507,2	167,8	53,0	146,8	61,0	10,8	400,7	19,1	1080,7	5654,7	38,7
BCM* (billion cubic metres)	9,4	19,9	2,6	8,8	4,6	0,5	4,6	50,7	87,0	3,8	11,6	5,6	81,1	1,7	3,0	1,4	46,8	15,5	4,9	13,6	5,6	1,0	37,0	1,8	99,8	522,1	3,6
MTOE* (million tons of oil equivalent)	7,9	16,7	2,1	7,4	3,8	0,4	3,8	42,5	72,9	3,2	9,7	4,7	67,9	1,5	2,5	1,2	39,3	13,0	4,1	11,4	4,7	0,8	31,0	1,5	83,6	437,6	3,0
PJ (Petajoules)	367,2	775,1	99,7	342,5	179,0	19,8	178,3	1976,0	3392,3	147,1	452,9	218,1	3160,6	67,9	115,3	55,7	1825,9	604,1	191,0	528,3	219,6	38,9	1442,5	68,8	3890,4	20356,8	139,3

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION IN 2009																											
	AT	BE	BG	CZ	DK	EE	FI	FR	DE	GR	HU	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	SE	UK	EU 27	CH
TWh (Terawatt hours)	91,5	194,1	26,3	86,2	42,8	5,3	45,1	491,1	904,4	37,9	118,3	55,3	825,8	15,7	28,1	14,4	452,0	158,9	51,2	140,1	56,2	10,6	401,9	14,2	1007,7	5275,1	34,8
BCM* (billion cubic metres)	8,4	17,9	2,4	8,0	4,0	0,5	4,2	45,3	83,5	3,5	10,9	5,1	76,2	1,5	2,6	1,3	41,7	14,7	4,7	12,9	5,2	1,0	37,1	1,3	93,0	487,1	3,2
MTOE* (million tons of oil equivalent)	7,1	15,0	2,0	6,7	3,3	0,4	3,5	38,0	70,0	2,9	9,2	4,3	63,9	1,2	2,2	1,1	35,0	12,3	4,0	10,8	4,3	0,8	31,1	1,1	78,0	408,2	2,7
PJ (Petajoules)	329,4	698,8	94,8	310,4	154,2	19,0	162,5	1768,0	3255,8	136,6	425,9	199,2	2972,8	56,6	101,2	51,8	1627,2	572,0	184,2	504,2	202,3	38,1	1446,8	51,2	3627,6	18990,5	125,3

NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION CHANGE 2009/2010 (PRELIMINARY)																											
	AT	BE	BG	CZ	DK	EE	FI	FR	DE	GR	HU	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	SE	UK	EU27	CH
%	11,5%	10,9%	5,2%	10,4%	16,1%	4,4%	9,7%	11,8%	4,2%	7,7%	6,3%	9,5%	6,3%	19,9%	14,0%	7,5%	12,2%	5,6%	3,7%	4,8%	8,5%	2,1%	-0,3%	34,3%	7,2%	7,2%	11,2%

* The results are based on terawatt hours, the applied calorific values (10,83 kWh/cubic metre GCV; 11,63 TWh/MTOE NCV; NCV = 0.9 GCV) are representing an European average.