Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy



### **Subnational Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics**

Regional and Local Authority, Great Britain, 2021

22 December 2022

**National Statistics** 

This publication provides national and subnational estimates of annual electricity and weather corrected gas consumption in Great Britain. The latest estimates are for 2021<sup>1</sup>.

### Electricity

- In 2019 (before the COVID-19 pandemic), out of all countries and regions, London had the smallest percentage reduction in total electricity consumption since 2005 (10.0 per cent compared to a 14.9 per cent for Great Britain as a whole). However, between 2019 and 2021 London experienced the largest reduction (7.0 per cent compared to 4.2 per cent for Great Britain). This was driven by a 13.1 per cent fall in total non-domestic electricity consumption in Inner London over this period.
- Mean domestic electricity consumption has decreased in all countries and regions since before the COVID-19 pandemic, with falls of between 1.2 and 2.9 per cent from 2019 to 2021. Over the longer term, mean domestic electricity consumption across Great Britain was 23.8 per cent lower in 2021 than in 2005, with similar reductions across all countries and regions.
- The North East has consistently had the lowest mean domestic electricity consumption, around 13 to 15 per cent below the Great Britain average.

#### Gas

- Mean domestic gas consumption has decreased in all countries and regions since before the COVID-19 pandemic, with falls of between 1.7 and 5.4 per cent between 2018 (year ending mid-May 2019) and 2021. Over the longer term, mean domestic gas consumption across Great Britain was 31.9 per cent lower in 2021 than in 2005, with similar reductions across all countries and regions.
- Out of all countries and regions the South West has the highest proportion of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid (24 per cent compared to 15 per cent for Great Britain as a whole). For gas meters which are consuming, the South West also has consistently had the lowest mean domestic gas consumption at around 11 to 12 per cent below the Great Britain average.

#### What you need to know about these statistics:

Estimates are based on meter point data provided by the electricity and gas industries from their administrative systems.

Gas meters consuming above the industry standard threshold of 73,200 GWh per annum are categorised as non-domestic, otherwise as domestic. This may result in some smaller commercial properties being classified as domestic and can affect the trends over time. Improvements to methodology and data coverage over time mean that the time series is revised. In general, data from 2017/18 onwards are more accurate and consistent.

Visit the <u>Domestic Energy Map</u> – an interactive map which displays average domestic electricity and gas consumption as well as the proportion of domestic properties not on the gas grid. This map will be updated with 2021 consumption data in January 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The current gas year of 2021 covers the period of mid-May 2021 to mid-May 2022. See "Gas consumption years" on page 16 for more detail. The electricity year is more closely aligned with the calendar year.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This document provides commentary on BEIS' subnational estimates of electricity and weather corrected gas consumption for Great Britain. Estimates are based on meter point data provided by the electricity and gas industries from their administrative systems. In this document, both the gas and electricity consumption years are referred to as 2021. It should be noted that the 2021 gas year runs from mid-May 2021 to mid-May 2022, whereas the electricity year more closely aligns to the calendar year; more detail on this is provided in the electricity and gas chapters. All local authority tables from 2015 are based on the administrative boundaries as of 1 April 2022. A <u>subnational methodology and guidance booklet</u> is published alongside this statistical release and provides further information on the collection and compilation of these subnational estimates of consumption.

Estimates are published from domestic and non-domestic users and broken down by countries and regions<sup>2</sup> (within England), and local authorities. Data<sup>3</sup> are also published at middle layer super output area (MSOA) and lower layer super output area (LSOA) for England and Wales, and intermediate zone (IZ) and data zone (DZ) for Scotland. For this year's publication we have continued to use MSOAs and LSOAs based on the 2011 Census.

For national estimates of domestic consumption, <u>Table C9 of ECUK</u> should be used. Electricity and gas consumption estimates by <u>property attributes</u>, <u>household characteristics</u> and <u>business</u> <u>characteristics</u> are available in the National Energy Efficiency Data-Framework (NEED).

## 1.2 Users

The most significant use of the subnational consumption data is by Local Authorities and devolved administrations, and other external users such as academics and industry. These data have most commonly been used for targeting, to examine trends over time, or to assess the effectiveness of carbon reduction and energy efficiency policies and initiatives.

Internally, these data are used by BEIS to inform policy development and help with the monitoring and evaluation of BEIS policies. The meter point gas and electricity data collected for subnational consumption outputs are also used in NEED.

Feedback from users of these data is welcomed. If you have any queries or suggestions, please contact us using the <u>Energy Efficiency Statistics mailbox</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A region refers to areas previously known as Government Office Regions (GORs), which were the primary statistical subdivision of England in which the Government Offices for the region fulfilled their role. They closed on 31 March 2011 and have remained a static geography used for statistical reporting since then. Further information is available in section 1.2 of the <u>Subnational methodology and guidance booklet</u>. <sup>3</sup> 2022 domestic postcode consumption data are due to be published in January 2023.

# 2. Electricity

The statistics presented in this section are based on meter level electricity consumption data obtained from electricity data aggregators (who compile these data on behalf of electricity suppliers). In total there were 31.8 million meter points in 2021. The estimates presented for 2021 cover the following industry defined years:

- Electricity non-half hourly 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022
- Electricity half hourly 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

This section presents electricity consumption by consuming sector (i.e., domestic, and non-domestic), and by country/region.

#### Electricity statistics: Background information

#### On site generation of electricity

An increasing proportion of domestic and non-domestic properties in the UK have installed electricity generators on-site, including solar panels and wind turbines. Some of this electricity is fed back into the grid and some is used on site. As the data reported on in this collection is based on meter readings, electricity consumed directly from on-site generation is not captured in these statistics. More information on installations of electricity generators in the UK under the Feed-in Tariff can be found in Feed-in Tariff statistics.

#### Sectoral classification for electricity

Profile class	Description
1-2	Standard and Economy 7 domestic meters respectively.
3-4	Standard and Economy 7 non-domestic meters respectively.
5-8	Higher consuming non-domestic meters.
0	These meters tend be the very highest consuming non-domestic meters
	and the consumption is monitored on a half-hourly basis.

The industry assigns a profile class (0-8) to each electricity meter:

Profile class 1-8 meters are non-half hourly meters, and profile 0 meters are half hourly meters. For the purpose of these statistics, profile class 1-2 meters are assumed to be domestic (aside from a small number of exceptions – see section 3.1.2 of the <u>methodology note</u>), while the remainder of the profile classes are assumed to be non-domestic.

#### Domestic meters and domestic properties

In 2021 there were 29.2 million domestic electricity meters, an increase of 0.8 per cent since 2020 (28.9 million meters). However, there were an estimated 27.6 million households<sup>4</sup> in Great Britain in 2021. Part of the reason for the difference between the number of domestic meters and households is likely to be due to non-domestic meters being incorrectly classified as being domestic, and some properties having more than one linked electricity meter (or meter point administration number (MPAN)). Additionally, the figures on the number of households are estimates which may be revised when they are recalibrated against data from the 2021 census.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Through the <u>Office for National Statistics</u>, <u>Welsh Government</u> and <u>Scottish Government</u> statistics there are an estimated 27.6 million households in Great Britain. Household estimates for 2021 were not available for Wales at time of publication, therefore for each local authority in Wales, 2021 figures were derived by applying growth factors to the number of households in 2020. The growth factors used were the average growth rates in the number of households between 2015 and 2020.

## 2.1 Total electricity consumption

For Great Britain as a whole, a total of 260,969 GWh of electricity was consumed in 2021 (via 31.8 million meters). Following a record year on year fall (4.8 per cent) between 2019 and 2020, total electricity consumption increased slightly following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing by 0.6 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020. However, the longer-term trend of decreasing electricity consumption appears to be continuing, with a 4.2 per cent reduction since 2019 (before the pandemic) and a 6.3 per cent fall over the past 5 years (2016 - 2021).

The contributions of domestic and non-domestic sectors to changes in total electricity consumption in recent years are illustrated Chart 1. A reduction in economic activity combined with an increase in working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have been the main reason that domestic consumption rose by 5.6 per cent in 2020 when compared with 2019, while non-domestic consumption fell by 11.1 per cent. In 2021, domestic consumption decreased by 5.6 per cent, returning to pre-pandemic levels, while non-domestic consumption only increased by around half of the large 11.1% drop the year before, resulting in 2021 having a lower total electricity consumption (4.2 per cent) compared to 2019.

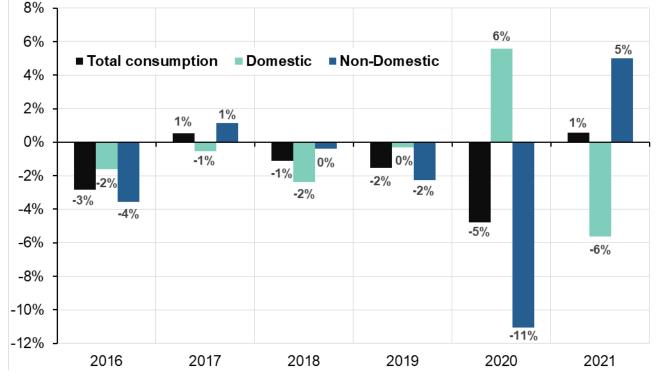


Chart 1: Year on year change in domestic, non-domestic and total electricity consumption in recent years: Great Britain

Table 1 shows percentage change in total, domestic and non-domestic electricity consumption since 2019 (chosen as a pre-pandemic comparator) by country/region. London saw the largest fall in total electricity consumption between 2019 and 2021 (7.0 per cent) driven by a 13.1 per cent fall in total non-domestic consumption in Inner London over this period (see estimates of electricity consumption by all regions and local authorities in <u>accompanying tables</u>).

	Domestic	Non- Domestic	Total	Domestic	Non- Domestic	Total
	2019-2021	2019-2021	2019-2021	2005-2021	2005-2021	2005-2021
North East	-0.4%	-6.7%	-4.6%	-17.7%	-27.7%	-24.5%
North West	0.2%	-6.0%	-3.7%	-15.2%	-24.1%	-20.9%
Yorkshire and The Humber	0.3%	-2.3%	-1.4%	-17.1%	-17.2%	-17.1%
East Midlands	0.2%	-4.7%	-2.8%	-12.8%	-20.5%	-17.7%
West Midlands	-0.3%	-7.5%	-4.7%	-12.9%	-21.3%	-18.1%
East	0.1%	-4.8%	-2.8%	-11.9%	-16.7%	-14.7%
London	-1.0%	-10.1%	-7.0%	-10.8%	-19.1%	-16.3%
South East	0.5%	-5.9%	-3.2%	-10.3%	-16.8%	-14.1%
South West	-0.8%	-6.0%	-3.7%	-13.7%	-22.2%	-18.6%
England	-0.1%	-6.2%	-3.9%	-13.0%	-20.1%	-17.5%
Wales	-0.8%	-6.2%	-4.4%	-14.8%	-22.4%	-19.9%
Scotland	-1.8%	-6.7%	-4.7%	-23.7%	-21.2%	-22.3%
Great Britain	-0.3%	-6.6%	-4.2%	-14.3%	-21.1%	-18.5%

# Table 1: Percentage change in of total electricity consumption since 2005 and 2019, bycountry/region, Great Britain, 2021

With regards to the longer-term trend, across Great Britain as a whole, total electricity consumption was 18.5 per cent lower in 2021 than in 2005. There was a 14.3 per cent reduction in total domestic consumption and a 21.1 per cent reduction in total non-domestic consumption over this period.

Chart 2 presents the trend in total electricity consumption by country/region. The countries/regions with the highest and lowest reduction in electricity consumption since 2005 are highlighted. The largest reductions in total consumption were in the North East (24.5 per cent) and Scotland (22.3 per cent). The smallest reductions in total electricity consumption were in London (16.3 per cent) and its two surrounding regions: East (14.7 per cent) and South East (14.1 per cent). The full breakdown by country/region and sector is shown in Table 1.

Non-domestic consumption electricity consumption accounts for more than half of the electricity consumed in the Great Britain (61 per cent in 2021). This is also the case for each country/region, as shown in Chart 3. Within England, in general, the proportion of total electricity consumption that is accounted from by the non-domestic sector is highest in the northern regions (for example, North East (64 per cent), Yorkshire and the Humber (63 per cent)) and lowest in the more southern regions (for example, South East (57 per cent), South West (55 per cent)). The notable exception to this is London (64 per cent).



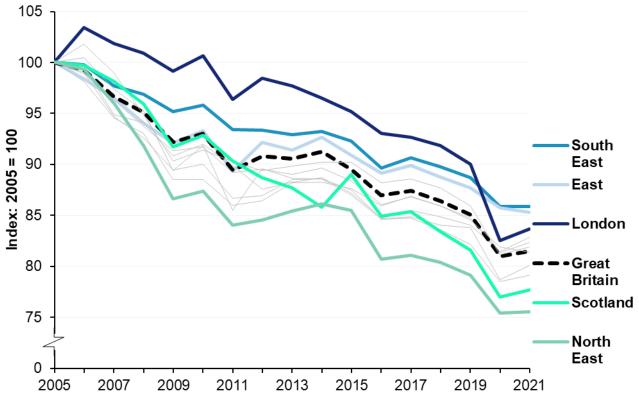
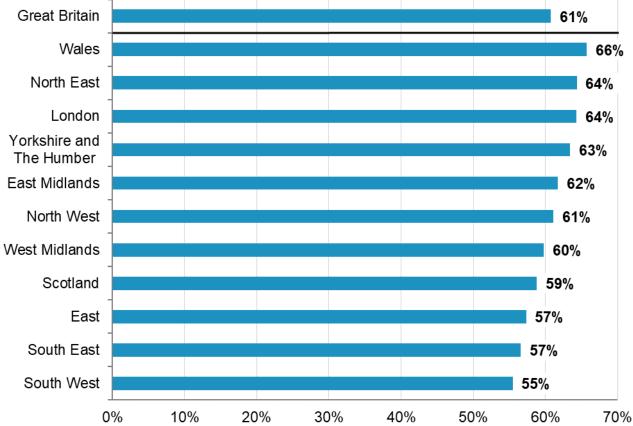


Chart 3: Non-domestic electricity consumption as a percentage of total electricity consumption, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021



### 2.2 Domestic electricity consumption

Across Great Britain as a whole, a record rise (since the start of time series in 2005) in mean domestic electricity consumption (4.7 per cent) in the year to 2020 was followed by a record fall of 6.4 per cent in the year to 2021. This left mean domestic electricity consumption 1.9 per cent lower in 2021 compared with the pre-pandemic year 2019. However total domestic electricity consumption in 2021 was only down by 0.3 per cent over this period owing to a 1.6 per cent increase in the number of domestic electricity meters (Table 2).

Over the longer term, total domestic electricity consumption in Great Britain has been on a downward trend with total domestic consumption in 2021 being 14.3 per cent lower than in 2005. This reduction has happened despite a 12.4 per cent increase in the number of domestic meters, due to a 23.8 per cent reduction in mean consumption per meter over this period.

Among all countries/regions, Scotland has experienced the largest fall in total domestic electricity consumption between 2005 and 2021 (23.7 per cent). This is a result of Scotland having the largest reduction in mean consumption per meter over the period (28.9 per cent) combined with the smallest increase in the number of domestic meters (7.2 per cent).

	Number of meters 2019-2021	Mean cons per meter 2019-2021	Total cons 2019-2021	Number of meters 2005-2021	Mean cons per meter 2005-2021	Total cons 2005-2021
North East	1.4%	-1.8%	-0.4%	7.6%	-23.5%	-17.7%
North West	1.6%	-1.4%	0.2%	14.7%	-26.1%	-15.2%
Yorkshire and The Humber	1.5%	-1.2%	0.3%	8.5%	-23.5%	-17.1%
East Midlands	1.9%	-1.6%	0.2%	11.6%	-21.8%	-12.8%
West Midlands	1.8%	-2.0%	-0.3%	19.0%	-26.8%	-12.9%
East	1.9%	-1.8%	0.1%	12.8%	-21.8%	-11.9%
London	1.9%	-2.9%	-1.0%	13.9%	-21.7%	-10.8%
South East	1.9%	-1.4%	0.5%	13.5%	-20.9%	-10.3%
South West	1.7%	-2.4%	-0.8%	14.5%	-24.7%	-13.7%
England	1.8%	-1.8%	-0.1%	13.3%	-23.2%	-13.0%
Wales	1.1%	-1.9%	-0.8%	10.0%	-22.6%	-14.8%
Scotland	1.1%	-2.9%	-1.8%	7.2%	-28.9%	-23.7%
Great Britain	1.6%	-1.9%	-0.3%	12.4%	-23.8%	-14.3%

# Table 2: Percentage change in number of domestic electricity meters and their mean consumption since 2005 and 2019, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021

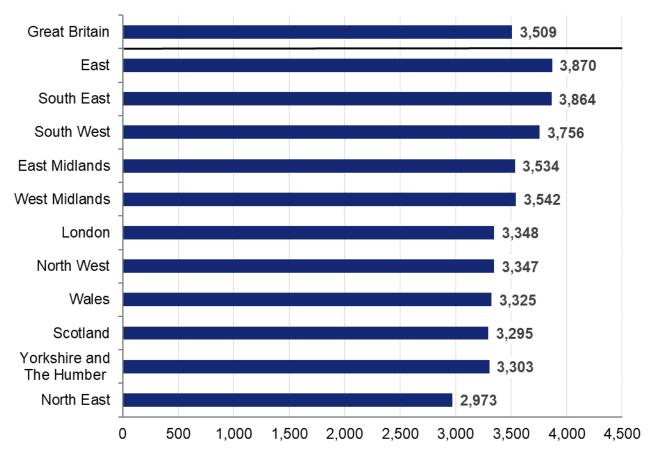




Chart 4 shows the mean domestic electricity consumption per meter for each country/region in 2021. Chart 5 shows the trend in mean domestic consumption since 2005 with the highest and lowest consuming regions (in terms of mean domestic consumption) highlighted. For Great Britain as a whole, mean domestic electricity consumption per meter was 23.8 per cent lower in 2021 than in 2005.

The North East has always had the lowest mean domestic electricity consumption per meter, consistently remaining at around 13 to 15 per cent below the Great Britain average. In 2021, the domestic mean in the North East was 15.3 per cent lower the Great Britain average.

At the other end of the scale, the East, South East and South West regions have consistently had the highest mean domestic electricity consumption. In 2021, mean domestic consumption in the East was 10.3 per cent higher than the Great Britain average, while the South East was 10.1 per cent higher and the South West was 7.0 per cent higher.

Chart 6 shows the distribution of domestic electricity consumption at the level of individual meters in 2021. While most (65 per cent) domestic electricity meters consumed between 750 and 4,000 kWh, 4 per cent consumed over 10,000 kWh. As a result of these few high consuming meters the mean domestic electricity consumption of 3,509 kWh is substantially higher than the median domestic electricity consumption (the value which half of meters are above, and half are below) of 2,692 kWh.

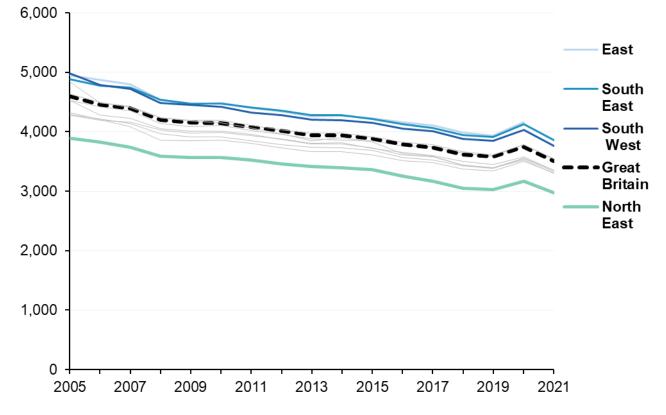
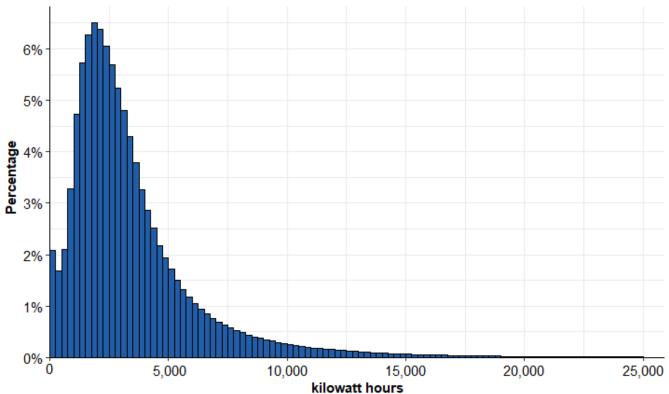
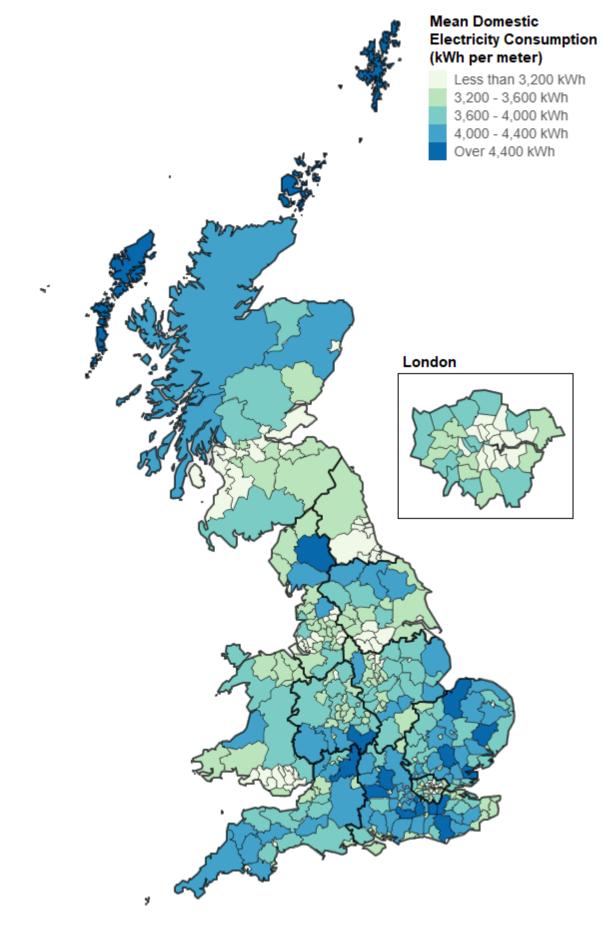




Chart 6: The distribution of domestic electricity consumption per meter in Great Britain, 2021

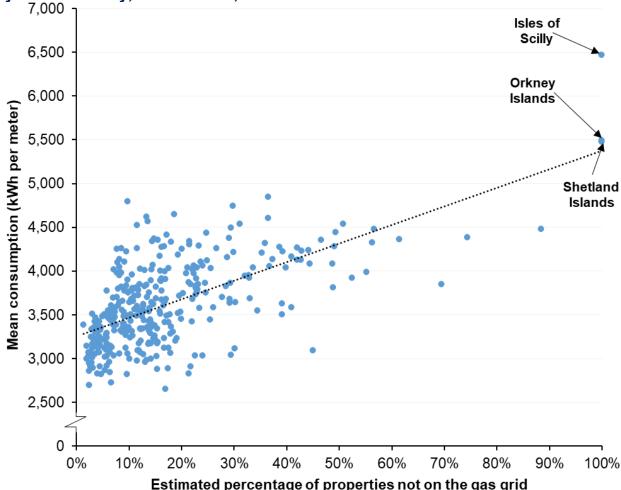


### Map 1: Mean domestic electricity consumption per meter by local authority, 2021



Map 1 shows how mean domestic electricity consumption per meter varies geographically at the level of individual local authorities. No one single factor can explain the geographical variation we see. Some local authorities, such as the Scottish Highlands or Cornwall, have a higher than average proportion of properties off the gas grid and are therefore expected to consume more electricity for space heating. Other factors that may help explain the geographical variation include property characteristics, such as the size of the property (as measured by the floor area), household characteristics, such as household income and ages of the occupants.

In general, heating tends to be the main source of total energy consumption (from all energy sources) in domestic properties (62 per cent of domestic energy consumption in 2021<sup>5</sup> was for space heating). Properties not connected to the gas grid are most likely to use electricity for heating<sup>6</sup>, which will raise their electricity consumption, and we therefore expect some correlation between electricity consumption and the percentage of properties not connected to the gas grid. For each local authority, Chart 7 shows the mean domestic electricity consumption per meter against the proportion of properties not connected to the gas grid. There is indeed a moderate correlation between these variables (a correlation coefficient of 0.64 and a correlation of 0.55 if we exclude the 3 local authorities with no properties connected to the gas grid).





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Source: <u>Energy Consumption in the UK 2022</u>, <u>End uses data tables</u>, Table U1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For those properties with no gas meter present, 53% use electricity as their main fuel type, followed by 27% using an oil fired system. Source: English Housing Survey 2017/18, annex table 3.5.

## 2.3 Non-domestic electricity consumption

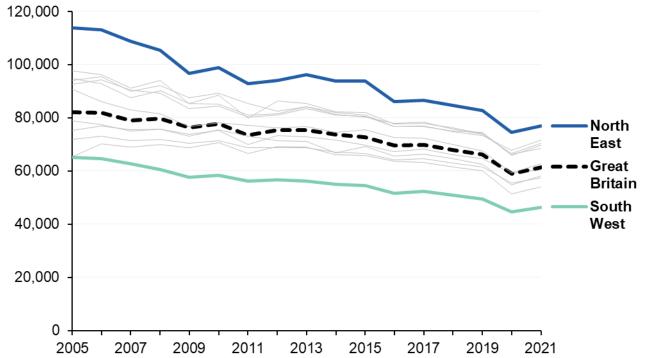
Across Great Britain as a whole, following a record year on year fall (11.1 per cent) between 2019 and 2020, total non-domestic electricity consumption partially returned to pre-COVID-19 levels with a 5.0 per cent increase in 2021. Over the longer term there has been a 21.1 per cent reduction in total non-domestic consumption between 2005 and 2021 (compared to a 14.3 per cent reduction in total domestic consumption over the same period). This reduction in total non-domestic consumption over the same period). This reduction in total non-domestic consumption over the same period. This reduction in total non-domestic meters, due to a 25.1 per cent reduction in mean consumption per meter. A full breakdown by country/region is provided in Table 3.

	Number of meters 2019-2021	Mean cons per meter 2019-2021	Total cons 2019-2021	Number of meters 2005-2021	Mean cons per meter 2005-2021	Total cons 2005-2021
North East	0.2%	-6.9%	-6.7%	6.9%	-32.4%	-27.7%
North West	1.7%	-7.6%	-6.0%	8.2%	-29.8%	-24.1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	-0.1%	-2.2%	-2.3%	8.6%	-23.7%	-17.2%
East Midlands	0.1%	-4.7%	-4.7%	7.0%	-25.7%	-20.5%
West Midlands	-0.4%	-7.1%	-7.5%	13.9%	-30.9%	-21.3%
East	1.4%	-6.2%	-4.8%	8.3%	-23.1%	-16.7%
London	0.2%	-10.3%	-10.1%	-2.0%	-17.5%	-19.1%
South East	0.7%	-6.5%	-5.9%	3.7%	-19.8%	-16.8%
South West	0.5%	-6.4%	-6.0%	9.5%	-28.9%	-22.2%
England	0.5%	-6.7%	-6.2%	6.0%	-24.6%	-20.1%
Wales	0.3%	-6.5%	-6.2%	3.3%	-24.9%	-22.4%
Scotland	0.6%	-7.2%	-6.7%	2.1%	-22.8%	-21.2%
Great Britain	0.5%	-7.1%	-6.6%	5.3%	-25.1%	-21.1%

# Table 3: Percentage change in the number of non-domestic electricity meters and their mean consumption since 2005 and 2019, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021

Chart 8 shows the trend in mean non-domestic electricity consumption since 2005 with the highest and lowest consuming regions (in terms of mean non-domestic consumption) highlighted. The North East has consistently had the highest non-domestic mean consumption, while the South West has consistently had the lowest. Both Table 3 and Chart 8 should be treated with caution; with so many different factors involved it is difficult to make meaningful, like for like comparisons between different parts of the country. This is particularly the case for non-domestic consumption as businesses vary greatly in size and activity<sup>7</sup>. Moreover, changes for a very small number of large very high consuming businesses can make a very big difference to total and mean consumption.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Further information on the non-domestic building stock and non-domestic building energy consumption in England and Wales can be found in the <u>Non-Domestic National Energy Efficiency Data-Framework</u>.





While mean non-domestic electricity consumption may be heavily affected by a small number of very high consuming meters, the median consumption can give a better indication of changes in electricity consumption for more typical meters in the non-domestic sector. Trends in median non-domestic electricity consumption since 2012 are shown in Chart 9, where the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions can be seen in the time series (decrease in median non-domestic electricity consumption in 2020, followed by an increase in 2021).

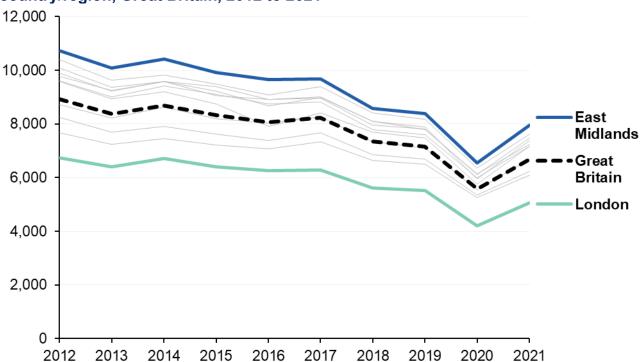


Chart 9: Median non-domestic electricity consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2012 to 2021

# 3. Gas

The statistics presented in this section are based on meter point gas consumption data provided by Xoserve (who compile these data from gas shippers, who in turn receive the data from gas suppliers). The estimates for 2021 cover the gas period between mid-May 2021 and mid-May 2022. These data are weather corrected.

In the domestic sector, gas consumption is predominantly used for heating purposes (75% of gas consumption in the domestic sector in 2021 was for space heating<sup>8</sup>) and, as a result, usage is driven by external temperatures and weather conditions. The weather correction factor enables more like-for-like comparisons of gas use over time, by controlling for weather changes. It should be noted that the <u>weather correction process</u> may not adequately compensate for extreme weather conditions as consumers may adjust their gas use sharply over short periods of time. BEIS publish <u>weather uncorrected gas consumption data</u> to complement these data.

This section looks at gas consumption by domestic/non-domestic classification and geographic area (country, region and local authority). For the published gas data tables see <u>gas</u> <u>consumption data</u>.

#### Gas statistics: Background information

#### Sectoral classification for gas

To classify a gas meter as domestic or non-domestic, the gas industry cut-off point of 73,200 kWh is used – that is, if a meter consumes less than 73,200 kWh within the gas year it is defined as a domestic meter, and non-domestic if it consumes 73,200 kWh or more.

#### Unique sites in the gas consumption statistics

In addition to domestic and non-domestic meters, BEIS is supplied with data on "Unique Sites" (also known as "Non-Standard Sites"). These are high consuming sites which have, in earlier years, been unreported due to the complexities in their billing arrangements. Up until 2015, Unique Sites had higher total consumption than the rest of the meters in the UK combined.

The data on unique sites show extreme changes in reported annual consumption. Because of this and to ensure consistency in the time series, gas consumption from unique sites and other large consumers are not included in the published tables.

#### **Break in trends**

With the 2017 consumption figures, Xoserve introduced a new data collection system. Due to this, a large proportion of meters, which had not reported for some time, have had their AQs updated in the 2017 gas consumption figures. This large update led to an increase in the total AQ reported in 2017 gas consumption data. With most gas meters now providing timely meter readings, the figures from 2017 onwards give a more accurate reflection of gas consumption.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Source: Energy Consumption in the UK 2022, End uses data tables, Table U2.

#### Gas statistics: Background information

#### Gas consumption years

The summer of 2017 saw the implementation of new gas meter point management and settlement processes, which caused a change in the period covered by gas data from 2016 onwards. The gas years are as follows:

- Prior to 2014: same October September period as 2014 and 2015
- 2014: October 2013 September 2014
- 2015: October 2014 September 2015
- 2016: Mid-July 2016 Mid-July 2017
- 2017: Mid-June 2017 Mid-June 2018
- 2018: Mid-May 2018 Mid-May 2019
- 2019: Mid-May 2019 Mid-May 2020
- 2020: Mid-May 2020 Mid-May 2021
- 2021: Mid-May 2021 Mid-May 2022

#### Gas statistics: Revisions since the previous publication

#### A new production process for subnational gas consumption statistics

A new processing system has been built and used for producing the subnational gas consumption statistics for 2021, as well as revising the statistics for the years 2015 – 2020. This new system was implemented to improve efficiency, quality assurance and methodological consistency across the timeseries.

The impacts of these revisions are greatest for the non-domestic sector which is sensitive to changes for a very small number of high consuming meters. The estimates of median gas consumption are relatively unaffected as these are not heavily influenced by a small number of high consuming meters.

A summary of the revisions for Great Britain as a whole is provided below:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All: No. of consuming meters	-0.2%	-0.8%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%	+0.0%
All: Total consumption	-0.1%	-0.8%	-1.2%	-1.3%	-0.9%	-0.7%
Domestic: No. of consuming meters	-0.2%	-0.8%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.4%	+0.0%
Domestic: Total consumption	-0.2%	-0.7%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.3%	+0.0%
Domestic: Mean consumption	+0.0%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.2%	-0.0%
Domestic: Median consumption	-0.0%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.1%	-0.0%
Non-Domestic: No. of consuming meters	-0.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.0%
Non-Domestic: Total consumption	-0.0%	-0.9%	-3.0%	-3.2%	-2.1%	-1.9%
Non-Domestic: Mean consumption	+0.9%	-0.6%	-2.7%	-3.0%	-1.6%	-1.9%
Non-Domestic: Median consumption	-0.1%	+0.0%	+0.1%	+0.0%	-0.0%	-0.0%

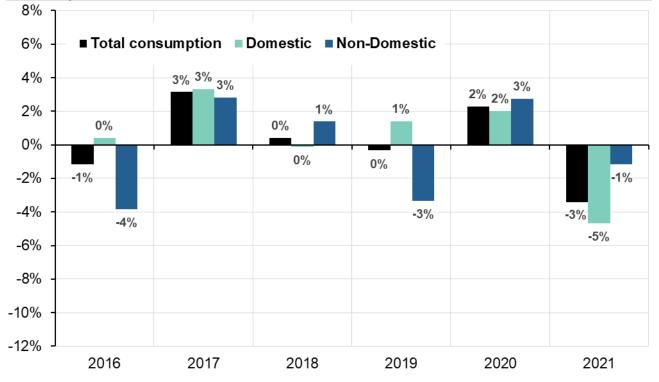
Further details are included in the accompanying <u>methodology note</u> (section 2.2).

## 3.1 Total gas consumption

Unlike for electricity (for which reporting years are more closely aligned to calendar years), a comparison between 2019 and 2021 does not provide as good of a comparison of gas consumption before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because the 2019 gas year (mid-May 2019 to mid-May 2020) includes the start of the first national lockdown. It is for this reason that, in this chapter, the 2021 gas year (year starting mid-May 2021) will be compared to the 2018 gas year (which ended in mid-May 2019, before the start of the pandemic).

For Great Britain as a whole, a total of 494,377 GWh of gas was consumed in the gas year 2021 (via 24.6 million meters). There was a 3.4 per cent decrease in total gas consumption in Great Britain between 2020 (mid-May 2020 to mid-May 2021) and 2021 (mid-May 2021 to mid-May 2022), leaving total gas consumption 1.6 per cent lower than in 2018 (the last gas year before the start of the pandemic – which ended mid-May 2019).

Chart 10 shows year-on-year changes in total gas consumption for both the domestic and nondomestic sectors. During the 2021 gas year (mid May 2021 – mid-May 2022), after the ending of all COVID-19 lockdowns, total **domestic** gas consumption fell by 4.7 per cent compared to 2020. This left domestic gas consumption 1.4 per cent lower than in 2018 (the last gas year before the start of the pandemic – which ended mid-May 2019). This follows year on year increases in total domestic gas consumption during the gas years 2019 and 2020 (1.4 per cent and 2.0 per cent respectively) which are likely to have been related to increased working from home during the pandemic. In addition, the elevated <u>domestic gas prices</u> (which were, on average, 80 per cent higher during April-June 2022 than in the previous four quarters (<u>Table</u> <u>2.1.1</u>)) may have also contributed to the year on year fall in domestic gas consumption in the 2021 gas year. Note that, like for electricity, year on year increases have generally been infrequent. It is likely that the apparent increase for 2017 in particular, will have been related to Xoserve (who provide the meter point level gas data) introducing a new improved processing system that year (see *Break in Trends*, page 15).



## Chart 10: Year-on-year percentage changes in total domestic and non-domestic gas consumption, 2016 to 2021

For the **non-domestic** sector, total gas consumption was 1.8 per cent lower during the gas year 2021 (the year starting mid-May 2021) than before the pandemic (the gas year 2018 – the year ending mid-May 2019). The data suggest that, for the non-domestic sector, the pandemic may have had the greatest impact at the beginning of the first lockdown (which started in March 2020) when the restrictions were the most stringent. For the 2019 gas year (the year ending mid May 2020, which covered the start of the first lockdown), gas consumption fell by 3.3 per cent. This was followed by a 2.7% increase in 2020.

However, it should be noted that the use of the consumption threshold of 73,200 kWh in categorising gas meters as domestic or non-domestic, means that some smaller commercial properties are classified as domestic, making reliable assessments of the impact of the pandemic more uncertain.

		Non-			Non-	
	Domestic	Domestic	Total	Domestic	Domestic	Total
	2018-2021	2018-2021	2018-2021	2005-2021	2005-2021	2005-2021
North East	-0.3%	3.6%	1.1%	-27.2%	-37.0%	-31.1%
North West	-1.6%	1.8%	-0.2%	-28.1%	-25.3%	-27.0%
Yorkshire and The Humber	-1.5%	-2.9%	-2.1%	-24.6%	-31.9%	-27.8%
East Midlands	-1.1%	-0.3%	-0.8%	-21.6%	-19.6%	-20.8%
West Midlands	-0.9%	-4.9%	-2.3%	-22.5%	-31.2%	-25.8%
East	-1.5%	-6.1%	-3.0%	-20.0%	-37.7%	-26.6%
London	-1.5%	-1.4%	-1.5%	-23.5%	-26.3%	-24.4%
South East	-1.4%	-2.5%	-1.7%	-20.4%	-39.3%	-27.0%
South West	-2.9%	-2.6%	-2.8%	-21.7%	-30.5%	-24.9%
England	-1.4%	-1.7%	-1.5%	-23.3%	-30.8%	-26.1%
Wales	-1.8%	-2.3%	-2.0%	-29.0%	-34.3%	-31.2%
Scotland	-0.4%	-1.5%	-0.8%	-20.0%	-26.9%	-22.9%
Great Britain	-1.4%	-1.8%	-1.6%	-23.2%	-30.3%	-25.9%

# Table 4: Percentage change in total gas consumption since 2005 and 2018, bycountry/region, Great Britain, 2021

Chart 11 shows the longer-term trend in gas consumption. Since 2005, total gas consumption has decreased by 25.9 per cent, with total domestic consumption decreasing by 23.2 per cent and total non-domestic consumption decreasing by 30.3 per cent over this period.

Unlike for electricity, the domestic sector is the larger consumer accounting for 64 per cent of total gas consumption in Great Britain in 2021 (Chart 12). The proportion of total gas consumed by the domestic sector was highest in the South: South East (71 per cent), East (69%), London (67 per cent) and South West (66 per cent).

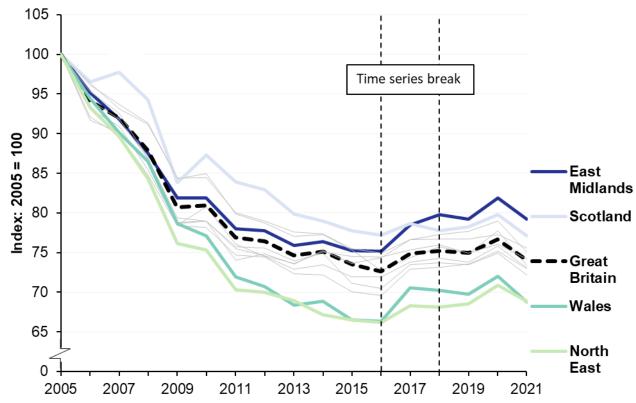
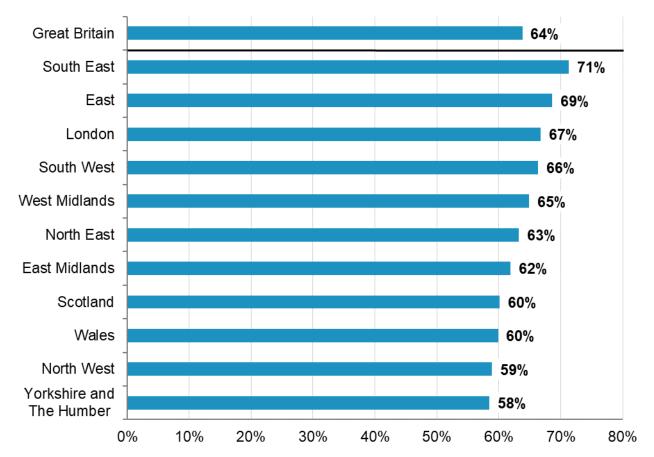


Chart 11: Total gas consumption by country/region, Great Britain, (Index: 2005 = 100)

Chart 12: Domestic gas consumption as a percentage of total gas consumption, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021



## 3.2 Domestic gas consumption

Across Great Britain as a whole, there were year on year increases in mean domestic gas consumption in the gas years 2019 and 2020 (0.9 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively). Following the end of COVID-19 restrictions there was a 5.4 per cent fall in 2021, leaving mean domestic gas consumption 3.2 per cent lower than in 2018 (before the COVID-19 pandemic). However total domestic gas consumption was only down by 1.4 per cent over this period owing to a 1.9 per cent increase in the number of domestic gas meters (Table 5).

Over the longer term, total domestic gas consumption in Great Britain has been on a downward trend, with total domestic consumption in being 23.2 per cent lower in 2021 than in 2005. This reduction has happened despite a 12.7 per cent increase in the number of domestic meters, due to a 31.9 per cent fall in mean consumption per meter.

# Table 5: Percentage change in number of domestic gas meters and their mean consumption since 2005 and 2018, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021

	Number of meters 2018-2021	Mean cons per meter 2018-2021	Total cons 2018-2021	Number of meters 2005-2021	Mean cons per meter 2005-2021	Total cons 2005-2021
North East	2.0%	-2.2%	-0.3%	10.9%	-34.3%	-27.2%
North West	1.6%	-3.1%	-1.6%	9.1%	-34.1%	-28.1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	1.8%	-3.3%	-1.5%	10.5%	-31.8%	-24.6%
East Midlands	2.5%	-3.5%	-1.1%	16.1%	-32.4%	-21.6%
West Midlands	2.1%	-2.9%	-0.9%	11.1%	-30.3%	-22.5%
East	2.5%	-3.9%	-1.5%	16.0%	-31.0%	-20.0%
London	0.3%	-1.7%	-1.5%	3.4%	-26.0%	-23.5%
South East	2.3%	-3.6%	-1.4%	14.6%	-30.6%	-20.4%
South West	2.6%	-5.4%	-2.9%	20.4%	-35.0%	-21.7%
England	1.9%	-3.3%	-1.4%	11.9%	-31.4%	-23.3%
Wales	1.8%	-3.6%	-1.8%	11.7%	-36.4%	-29.0%
Scotland	2.8%	-3.1%	-0.4%	21.2%	-34.0%	-20.0%
Great Britain	1.9%	-3.2%	-1.4%	12.7%	-31.9%	-23.2%

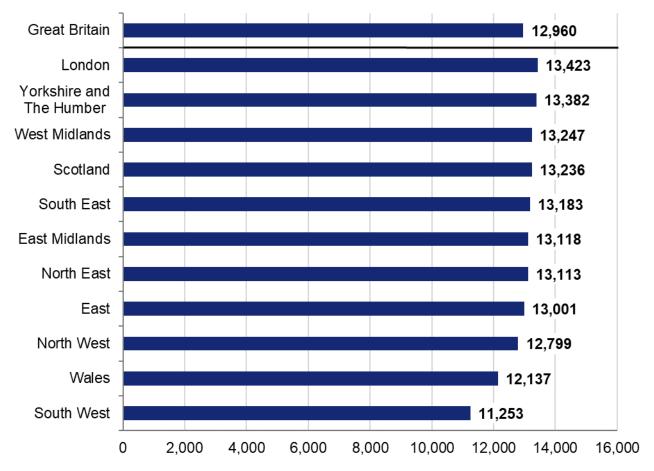




Chart 14: Mean domestic gas consumption (kWh per meter) by country/region, Great Britain, 2005 to 2021

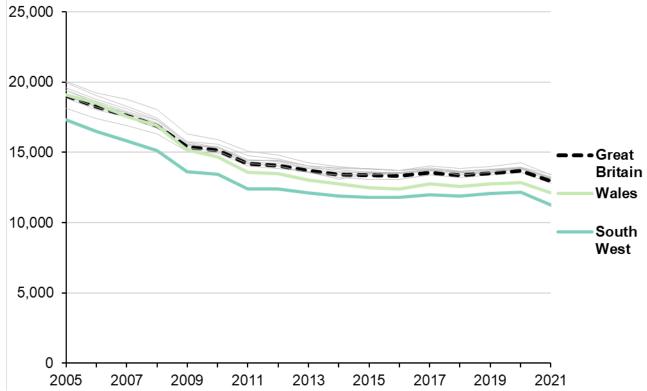


Chart 13 shows the mean domestic gas consumption per meter for each country/region in 2021. Chart 14 shows the trend in mean domestic gas consumption since 2005 with the lowest consuming regions (in terms of mean domestic consumption) highlighted. For Great Britain as a whole, mean domestic gas consumption per meter was 31.9 per cent per cent lower in 2021 than in 2005. The South West has always had the lowest mean domestic gas consumption per meter, consistently remaining at around 11 to 12 per cent below the Great Britain average.

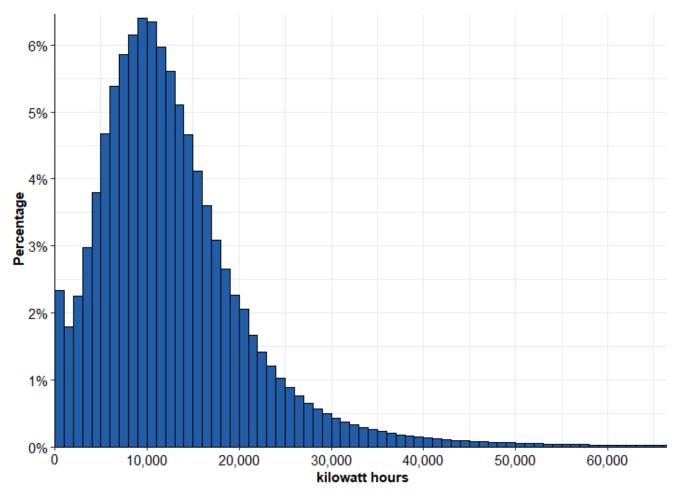


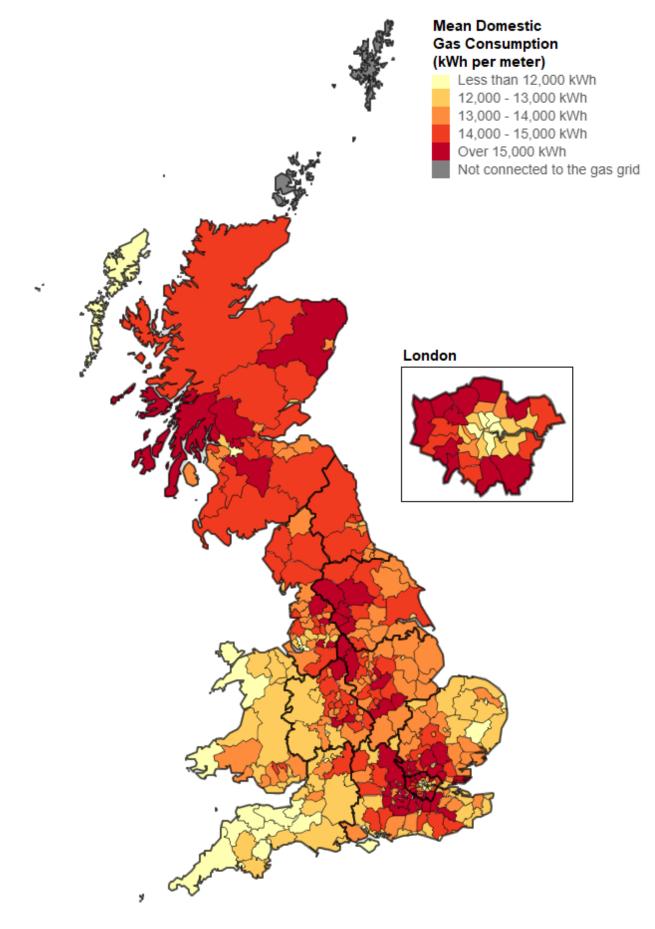
Chart 15: The distribution of domestic gas consumption per meter in Great Britain, 2021

Chart 15 shows the distribution of domestic gas consumption at the level of individual meters in 2021. While most (64 per cent) domestic gas meters consumed between 4,000 kWh and 16,000 kWh, 4 per cent consumed over 30,000 kWh. As a result of these few high consuming meters the mean gas domestic consumption of 12,960 kWh is substantially higher than the median domestic gas consumption (the value which half of meters are above, and half are below) of 11,345 kWh.

There are a variety of factors which may be influencing the variation in domestic gas consumption, for example property type, property age, energy efficiency of a property and number of occupants. Analysis using <u>NEED Annex D: Determinants of domestic gas</u> <u>consumption (PDF, 1.46MB)</u> looks at how various factors affect household gas use, including property age, property type, household income and number of occupants.

Map 2 shows how mean domestic gas consumption per meter varies geographically at the level of individual local authorities.

### Map 2: Mean domestic gas consumption per meter by local authority, 2021



## 3.3 Non-domestic gas consumption

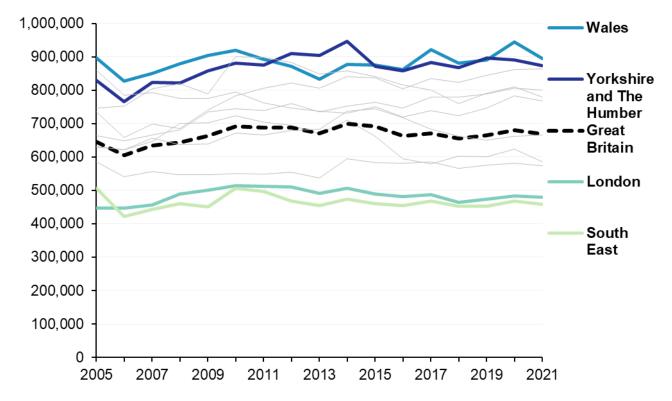
Across Great Britain as a whole, non-domestic gas consumption was 1.8 per cent lower in 2021 (mid-May 2021 to mid-May 2022), than in 2018 (mid-May 2018 to mid-May 2019, the last gas year before the COVID-19 pandemic).

Over the longer term, total non-domestic gas consumption in Great Britain has been on a downward trend, with total non-domestic consumption in 2021 being 30.3 per cent lower than in 2005. This reduction was driven by a 32.7 per cent decrease in the number of consuming non-domestic meters, while mean consumption per consuming meter increased by 3.6 per cent.

## Table 6: Percentage change in the number of consuming non-domestic gas meters and their mean consumption since 2005 and 2018, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021

	Number of meters 2018-2021	Mean cons per meter 2018-2021	Total cons 2018-2021	Number of meters 2005-2021	Mean cons per meter 2005-2021	Total cons 2005-2021
North East	-2.6%	6.3%	3.6%	-29.5%	-10.7%	-37.0%
North West	-3.0%	5.0%	1.8%	-36.5%	17.5%	-25.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	-3.6%	0.7%	-2.9%	-35.4%	5.4%	-31.9%
East Midlands	-3.1%	2.9%	-0.3%	-33.3%	20.5%	-19.6%
West Midlands	-5.3%	0.5%	-4.9%	-34.7%	5.4%	-31.2%
East	-3.3%	-2.9%	-6.1%	-33.1%	-7.0%	-37.7%
London	-4.5%	3.2%	-1.4%	-31.1%	7.0%	-26.3%
South East	-3.7%	1.2%	-2.5%	-33.1%	-9.3%	-39.3%
South West	-3.8%	1.3%	-2.6%	-29.2%	-1.8%	-30.5%
England	-3.8%	2.1%	-1.7%	-33.2%	3.6%	-30.8%
Wales	-3.9%	1.6%	-2.3%	-34.2%	-0.2%	-34.3%
Scotland	-3.9%	2.5%	-1.5%	-30.0%	4.4%	-26.9%
Great Britain	-3.9%	2.1%	-1.8%	-32.7%	3.6%	-30.3%

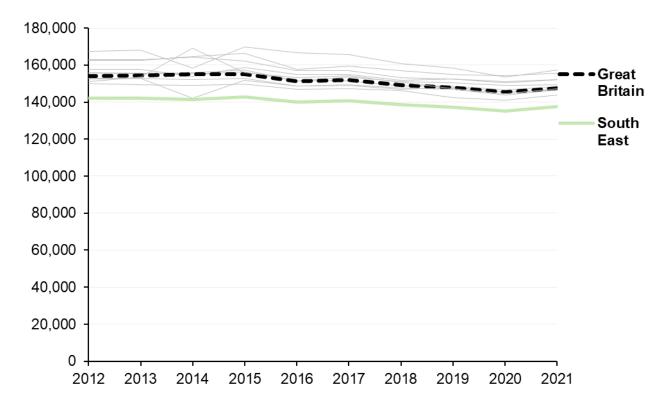
There is considerable variation in mean non-domestic gas consumption per meter between countries/regions as shown in Chart 16. While Wales and 'Yorkshire and the Humber' have consistently been broadly around 30 per cent above the Great Britain mean, London and the South East have consistently been around 30 per cent below the Great Britain mean.





Mean non-domestic gas consumption is heavily influenced by a small number of high consuming gas meters. The median consumption per non-domestic meter can give a better indication of gas consumption for more typical non-domestic meters. On this basis, there is much more consistency between regions as shown in Chart 17.





### 3.4 Domestic properties not connected to the gas grid

#### Properties not connected to the gas grid: Background information

There is no definitive source of information on properties that not connected to the gas grid. However, BEIS produces <u>estimates of the number of domestic properties not connected to the</u> <u>gas grid</u> based on the difference between the number of properties and the number of domestic gas meters in each area.

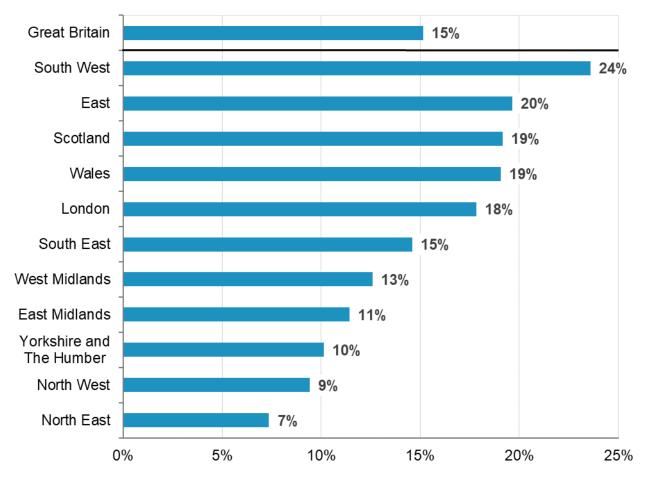
BEIS is not able to identify specific properties within an area which are not connected to the gas grid but estimates the identification of areas which have few or no gas meters. Some limitations which should be considered when using these estimates include:

- Each gas meter is assigned as domestic or non-domestic based on the gas industry threshold of 73,200 kWh, with all meters consuming below 73,200 kWh per gas year assumed to be domestic. This means that smaller consuming commercial/industrial consumers are allocated as domestic. Therefore, estimates of the number of properties without gas are an underestimate of the true number. The impact of this assumption on estimates will vary by area.
- Approximately 0.1 per cent of domestic meters could not be allocated to a local authority region in 2021, as the postcode provided could not the matched to the National Statistics postcode lookup. These unallocated meters are included in the overall estimates for Great Britain, England and Wales, and Scotland but excluded from all other geographical breakdowns.
- In these statistics, there is no differentiation between properties which do not have a gas
  meter because they are in an area which is off the gas grid and those which are in an area
  on the gas grid but have a property which is not connected to it (such as inner-city blocks of
  flats).

Two methodological improvements have been made to the estimates of the number of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid and statistics back to 2015 have been revised so all figures are on a comparable basis. For Scotland, estimates of the number of domestic properties are now based on the number of dwellings in Scotland published by National Records of Scotland, whereas previously the number of households in Scotland was used as a proxy. Additionally, non-consuming meters labelled as non-domestic meters by gas shippers have now been excluded from the domestic gas meter total.

These improvements have had a small overall impact on the figures. For England and Wales, there is a 0.2 percentage point difference between previously published estimates for 2020 and those based on the updated methodology. For Scotland, there is a 4.9 percentage point difference between previously published estimates for 2020 and the updated methodology. The Scotland change is larger due to the switch to using dwellings rather than households. Further details are included in the accompanying methodology note (section 2.4).

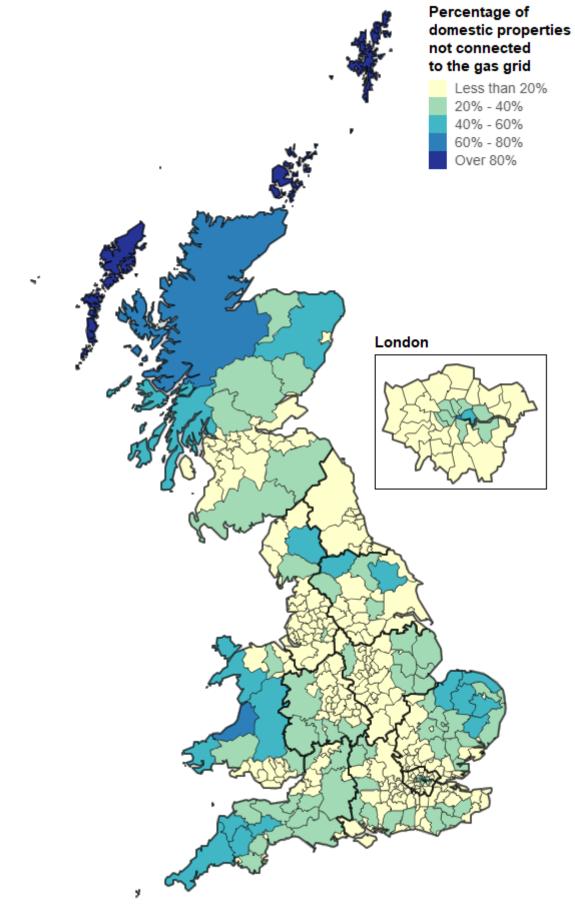
Chart 18 shows the estimated proportions of properties not connected to the gas grid for each country/region. Across Great Britain in 2021, an estimated 15 per cent of domestic properties were not connected to the gas grid, a similar proportion to 2015. The percentage not connected to the gas grid was lowest in the North of England: North East (7 per cent), North West (9 per cent) and Yorkshire and The Humber (10 per cent). The South West had by far the highest percentage of properties not connected to the gas grid (24 per cent). Within London, the percentage of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid was almost twice as large in Inner London (24 per cent) as in Outer London (13 per cent).



# Chart 18: Percentage of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid, by country/region, Great Britain, 2021

Map 3 shows how the proportion of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid varies geographically at the level of individual local authorities in Great Britain in 2021. The only local authorities with no domestic properties connected to the gas grid are the Shetland Islands and the Orkney Islands north of mainland Scotland, and the Isles of Scilly off the coast of Cornwall. Na h-Eileanan Siar (the Western Isles of Scotland) has the next highest proportion of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid (88 per cent in 2021).

# Map 3: Percentage of domestic properties not connected to the gas grid, by local authority, Great Britain, 2021



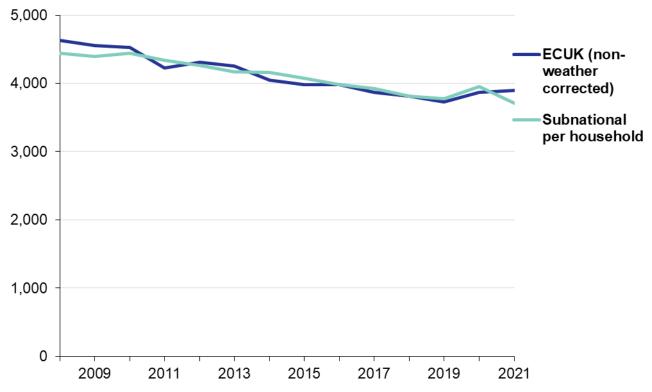
# 4. Comparison with other sources

## 4.1 Electricity

### **Domestic Electricity**

Chart 19 presents a comparison of the subnational data with the average annual consumption per household published in <u>Energy Consumption in the UK</u> (ECUK) Table C9 (derived from <u>DUKES Table 1.1.5</u>). It shows that both sources gradually decrease between 2008 and 2019, and then both increase in 2020. In 2021, there is a greater divergence between the two sources, with subnational showing a 6% decrease compared to 2020, and ECUK showing a 1% increase. Over time the trend is broadly consistent between the two sources.

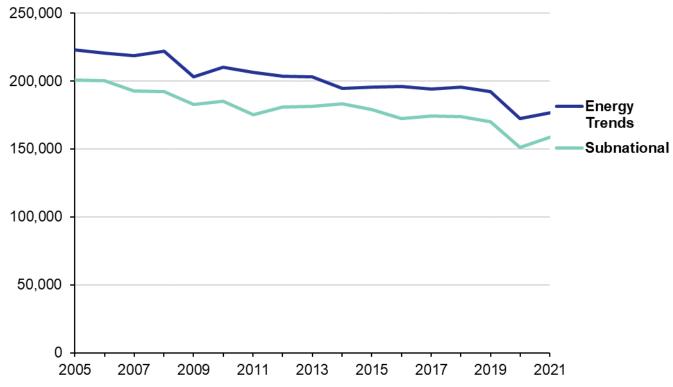
Chart 19: Comparison of sources, mean annual domestic electricity consumption per household (kWh), 2008 to 2021



### Non-domestic Electricity

Chart 20 presents a comparison of the subnational data with the total annual non-domestic consumption for the UK as published in <u>Energy Trends Table 5.2</u>. This shows that whilst the methodology for calculating non-domestic consumption between the two sources is different, the trend over time is broadly consistent.





### 4.2 Gas

### Domestic gas consumption

BEIS publish estimates of gas consumption from other sources, which can be used to derive estimates of average domestic gas consumption as published in <u>ECUK Table C9</u> (derived from <u>DUKES Table 1.1.5</u>).

Chart 21 shows estimates between 2008 and 2021, note that weather correction can cause variability between the estimates. In broad terms the data series are consistent, which provides reassurance to users of the subnational data. The difference between the ECUK and subnational average domestic gas consumption figures will in part be driven by the different denominators used to calculate the two figures. ECUK data uses the number of billed customers collected by BEIS as part of its survey of gas suppliers, whereas subnational data uses the number of domestic meters as the denominator. There will be some non-domestic meters incorrectly included in the domestic subnational gas data, since the domestic split is based on those with an annual consumption of 73,200 kWh or lower. Therefore, some small industrial and commercial consumers may impact the average. In addition, ECUK data covers the 2021 calendar year, whereas subnational gas data covers the period mid-May 2021 to mid-May 2022.

### Non-domestic gas consumption

Chart 22 compares the total annual UK non-domestic gas consumption published in Energy Trends (Table 4.1) with subnational non-domestic gas consumption. Both of these sets of statistics are weather corrected. Although the methodology for counting non-domestic consumption between the two sources is different, the trend over time is consistent.

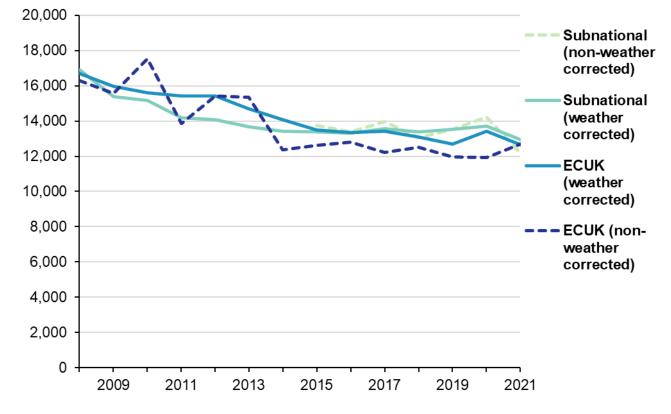
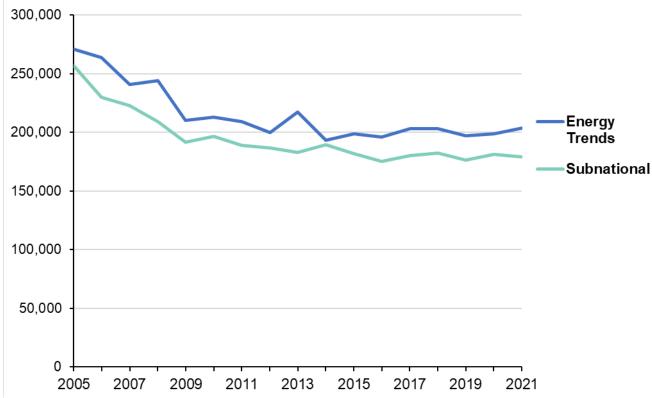




Chart 22: Comparison of sources, annual non-domestic gas consumption (GWh), 2005 to 2021



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Note that due to a methodological change, subnational gas consumption from 2017/18 is not directly comparable to previous years.

# Accompanying tables

The following electricity consumption tables accompany this report:

- Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics (domestic and nondomestic).
- Middle Layer Super Output Areas electricity consumption (domestic and non-domestic).
- Lower Layer Super Output Areas electricity consumption (domestic).
- Stacked electricity consumption statistics data (domestic and non-domestic).
- Postcode level electricity statistics: 2021 (domestic, experimental statistics), to be published in January 2023.

The following gas consumption tables accompany this report:

- Regional and local authority gas consumption statistics (domestic and non-domestic).
- Middle Layer Super Output Areas gas consumption (domestic and non-domestic).
- Lower Layer Super Output Areas gas consumption (domestic).
- Stacked gas consumption statistics data (domestic and non-domestic).
- Postcode level gas statistics: 2021 (domestic, experimental statistics), to be published in January 2023.

# **Technical information**

For full details on the methodology, assumptions and data interpretation relating to these statistics, please refer to the <u>Methodology and Guidance booklet</u>. Users are highly advised to familiarise themselves with the material in the booklet before using the data.

# **Related statistics**

### Comparison between subnational electricity and gas data

Subnational electricity and gas consumption statistics use varying methodologies to compile the datasets and cover different time periods. A key difference to bear in mind is that electricity consumption data are not weather corrected while gas consumption data have a weather correction factor applied to them. Despite these differences, the combined electricity and gas figures provide a good indication of overall annual household energy consumption in Great Britain at local authority, MSOA/IZ and LSOA/DZ level.

### Comparison to DUKES

<u>Digest of United Kingdom energy statistics</u> (DUKES) is an annual BEIS publication which provides a detailed and comprehensive picture of energy production and use, with extensive tables, charts and commentary covering all the major aspects of energy.

There are differences in reported electricity and gas figures in the subnational and DUKES publications as DUKES data:

- Are based on a calendar year. Subnational electricity meter estimates cover the calendar year for half-hourly data, but an annual period starting on 31 January for non-half hourly data (see section 2 for full details). The subnational gas year starts in mid-May (see section 3 for full details).
- Covers consumption for the United Kingdom, whereas the subnational consumption statistics cover Great Britain.
- Are compiled using a top-down approach, where statistics are gathered by energy companies on a national level, whereas subnational datasets are created from aggregating the consumption figures for individual electricity and gas meters.
- Include electricity consumption from Central Volume Allocation (CVA) users in its totals, which are not included in the subnational data.
- Include gas consumption from large power stations in its totals, which are not included in subnational data.
- Does not include weather correction for gas consumption, whereas subnational gas data are weather corrected.

### Comparison to ECUK

There are also points the user needs to be aware of when comparing subnational data to <u>Energy</u> <u>Consumption in the UK</u> (ECUK). ECUK is an annual BEIS publication which includes a detailed overview of energy consumption at a UK-wide level.

Differences occur between ECUK and subnational figures as data in ECUK:

- Are, in many cases, modelled and obtained from secondary analysis performed by BEIS on data from several sources, including DUKES.
- Contain a more comprehensive sector split than subnational statistics and give information on end use for majority of fuels.

# **Further information**

### Future updates to these statistics

#### Great Britain:

The next publication of subnational gas and electricity data will be in December 2023 when 2022 data will be available.

#### Northern Ireland:

The next publication of Northern Ireland electricity and gas data will be in December 2023 when 2022 data will be available.

## **Revisions policy**

The <u>BEIS statistical revisions policy</u> sets out the revisions policy for these statistics, which has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority <u>Code of Practice for Statistics</u>.

### Uses of these statistics

The most significant use of the subnational consumption data is by local authorities and devolved administrations for targeting and monitoring a range of carbon reduction and energy efficiency policies. For example, they have told us they use it to:

- identify areas with high consumption to identify reasons and target measures.
- enable more effective deployment of renewable energy schemes by knowing where energy is consumed.
- estimate the proportion of energy reduced or replaced through local sustainable energy projects.
- help identify areas off the gas grid.
- establish a baseline consumption figure to set targets for reduction.
- enable more efficient targeting of investments and interventions.
- help in planning to improve the energy efficiency of homes.

Other external users include academics and members of industry who use the data for a variety of purposes. Most commonly, data has been used to examine trends over time or assess the effectiveness of energy efficiency initiatives.

Internally, data are used by BEIS policy colleagues and other analysts within the department to inform policy development and help with monitoring and evaluation of BEIS policies. The meter point gas and electricity data collected for subnational consumption outputs are also the most important input for BEIS's <u>National Energy Efficiency Data-Framework</u> (NEED).

They also form the basis of responses to parliamentary questions and general enquiries.

## User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and should be sent to the <u>Energy Efficiency Statistics mailbox</u>.

The BEIS statement on <u>statistical public engagement and data standards</u> sets out the department's commitments on public engagement and data standards as outlined by the <u>Code</u> <u>of Practice for Statistics</u>.

## National Statistics designation

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in September 2018 following a <u>compliance check</u> by the Office for Statistics Regulation. The statistics last underwent a <u>full assessment</u> in 2014.

### Pre-release access to statistics

Some ministers and officials receive access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release. Details of the arrangements for doing this and a list of the ministers and officials that receive prerelease access to these statistics can be found in the <u>BEIS statement of compliance</u> with the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008.

### Contact

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