Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2019

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Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions
E.1 Provisional 2018 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 28 March 2019. A copy of the statistical release and associated data tables are available on the BEIS section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2018

Oil pollution, oil releases and gas flaring
E.2 The amounts of oil released around the coasts of the United Kingdom and offshore (North Sea) are small in relation to total oil production, with the amounts discharged on drill cuttings, and with produced water generally much larger than from offshore installation releases. The total amount of oil released offshore during 2018 was approximately 11 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil release reports recorded in 2018 amounts to 277, which is higher than the 220 reported during 2017 however the overall volume is less than half. 2018 had only a total of 6 incidents where oil exceeded 1 tonne of oil released but 2018 had 2. These 2 reports account for 2 tonnes of oil.

E.4 The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 (OPPC) came into effect in August 2005. Under OPPC installations are granted a permit for activities discharging oil-contaminated water to sea, but the oil content must not exceed 30 milligrams per litre. The average content of oil in produced water for 2018, for the UKCS as a whole, was 26.514 milligrams per litre compared to 16.962 milligrams per litre in the previous year.

E.5 Under the terms of petroleum production licences, gas may be flared only with the consent of the OGA (formerly the Secretary of State). Flaring at offshore installations in 2018 was estimated to be 1347 million cubic metres, 5 per cent higher than in 2017, and an additional 175 million cubic metres was vented. In total this is equivalent to 3.7 per cent of total gross gas production.

E.6 The long term trend is decline in both flared and vented gas. The 2018 total is 32 per cent below the peak in 2001 when oil and gas production were near peak levels. The recent increase in flaring has accompanied a broadly equivalent increase in UK oil production. A time series of gas flared and vented at terminals, gas fields and onshore and offshore oil fields can be found in table E.1.

Data sources
E.7 Figures for the total number of oil releases reported are collected by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Annual Surveys of Oil Pollution around the Coasts of the United Kingdom.

E.8 Further information on oil spills and discharges including historical data is available on the oil and gas section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-environmental-alerts-and-incident-reporting.

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Annex F

United Kingdom oil and gas resources

Introduction

F.1 This section provides background information on the United Kingdom’s crude oil, natural gas liquids and natural gas production, disposal and operations. This information is intended as a supplement to that in the commodity balances included in Chapter 3. Most of the data (including those on gas) are obtained from the Oil and Gas Authority’s (OGA) Petroleum Production Reporting System (PPRS). Further information can be obtained from OGA’s website at www.ogauthority.co.uk/. Oil tables F.1, F.3 & F.4 are available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/petroleum-chapter-3-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes, and gas table F.2 is available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/natural-gas-chapter-4-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes.

F.2 The annual statistics relate to calendar years, or the ends of calendar years, and the data cover the United Kingdom Continental Shelf [UKCS] (both onshore and offshore). Annual data for production, imports and exports of crude oil during the period 1970 to 2018 are given in Chapter 3, long term trends, Table 3.1.1 (www.gov.uk/government/statistics/petroleum-chapter-3-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes). The equivalent for natural gas production is Chapter 4, long term trends, Table 4.1.1 (www.gov.uk/government/statistics/natural-gas-chapter-4-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes).

Oil and gas reserves

F.3 Information on oil and gas reserves can be found on the Oil and Gas Authority’s (OGA) data section of their website at: www.ogauthority.co.uk/data-centre/data-downloads-and-publications/reserves-and-resources/.

Offshore oil and gas fields and associated facilities

F.4 Table F.A below shows that the number of offshore oil fields in production or under development rose from 198 at the end of 2003 to 208 at the end of 2018. For offshore gas fields the equivalent change between the end of 2013 and 2018 was from 141 to 86 with a few older gas fields closing and not many being added into production. The Theddlethorpe terminal closed in 2018 and the remaining fields connected with it ceased production. Most oil fields also produce gas; these are not double-counted. The changes in the number of fields in production are shown in Chart F.1 (offshore fields in production). Throughout the period since 2013 there have been 5 onshore oil terminals. In 2007 there were 5 onshore associated sub-gas terminals and 9 other (dry) sub-gas terminals. However, during 2010 the three (dry) sub terminals at Easington were combined into a single terminal. In 2011 two (dry) sub-gas terminals at Bacton were combined into a single sub-gas terminal. While there are significant numbers of oil and gas fields onshore, total onshore production is less than 2 per cent of the UK total.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Table F.A: Offshore oil and gas fields and facilities</th>
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The average size of fields commencing production in the years 2018 was 5.7 million tonnes of oil equivalent (see Chart F.2). The general fall in average field size reflects a decline in the size of fields discovered compared with the early period of the development of the North Sea and the effect of improved technology providing cost-effective means of extracting oil and gas from smaller fields and hitherto unpromising locations. The industry continues to face a range of challenges in order to realise fully the North Sea's potential. Alongside other initiatives, government and industry are tackling these challenges via a number of working boards reporting to the MER UK Forum.

(1) Recoverable reserves originally present based on the operators' best estimate at the time production commenced. Please note that the start-up of the very large Buzzard field in 2007 does not stand out in this table because of the start-up of a significant number of fields with much smaller reserves.
Production of oil and gas (Tables F.1, F.2 and F.3)

F.6 These tables show production of crude oil, natural gas (mainly methane) and natural gas liquids. Before 2001, oil and gas production were reported based on field level data on well-head production, but aggregate figures are now based on terminal receipts following the introduction in January 2001 of a simplified Petroleum Production Reporting System and subsequent in-house changes to the data collection system. These new data are more accurate measures of production because the oil that leaves a terminal has been stabilised (that is any water, natural gas liquids or other organic compounds have been removed from the crude oil). Gross gas production includes gas used at terminals but excludes any flaring or venting at the terminals (not available before 2001). Field level data can still be found at OGA’s data section of their website at: www.ogauthority.co.uk/data-centre/data-downloads-and-publications/production-data/

F.7 Chart F.3 shows the trend in total oil production from 2005 to 2018. After reaching a record level of 137 million tonnes in 1999, production has generally declined each year however there has been a steady increase from 2014 due to new investment and the completion of new projects. In 2018 production reached 51.2 million tonnes, 37 per cent of the peak level. Gross natural gas production (mainly methane) peaked in 2000 at 115 billion cubic metres, similarly to oil production this has been on a steady decline with the exception of the last three years with production at 41 billion cubic metres in 2018, 35 per cent of the peak level.
Production of crude oil

F.8 Production from established oil fields has been dropping in recent years. This is illustrated in Chart F.4 below, where oil production in each year from 2008 to 2018 is broken down by the age group of the fields in production during that year. Two charts are shown, the first with the actual amounts of crude oil produced during the year for each age group and the second with the same data transformed to show what percentage of total production each year comes from each field age group. The data used to produce these charts can be found in OGA’s data section of their website at: www.ogauthority.co.uk/data-centre/data-downloads-and-publications/production-data/.

F.9 It can be seen from the production chart that during the 2000s the amount of oil produced from older established fields was in general decline. It is also noticeable that the decline for 1995-1999 as well as 2000-2004 developments is greater than for earlier development beginning in the 60s, 70s and 80s. This is because later technology meant crude oil could be extracted at a relatively greater rate leading to a quicker exhaustion of the reserves. Production for fields starting up between 2005-2009 have remained stable since 2011. Production from 2010 to 2014 reached a peak 2015 with some minor decreases in the years since. In 2018, newer (post 1994) fields accounted for 79 per cent of the UK’s oil production, with an increase in production with a sharp increase in production for fields
completed since 2016. The charts also clearly reflect the start up and prolonged plateau of the very large Buzzard field at the beginning of 2007. The suspension of production from the Elgin/Franklin area because of a gas leak in March 2012 can be seen in chart F.4 with production rising from 2014 following field developments.

Chart F.4: Age profile of UK crude oil production

Production in year

Production as a percentage of total

Production of gas

F.10 The charts below present gross gas production reported at field/system level and include gas used for drilling, production and pumping operations, but exclude gas flared, vented and re-injected. The data used to produce these charts can be found in OGA’s data section of their website at: www.ogauthority.co.uk/data-centre/data-downloads-and-publications/production-data/.
Gross gas production reached a peak in 2000. Since then production has fallen to 35 per cent of peak production with slight rises in production in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (Chart F.5). As mentioned above (in paragraph F.8) for older oil fields, production from the older gas fields that were discovered in the Southern North Sea has reduced in recent years as the reserves originally present in the fields become depleted. Chart F.5 illustrates this. The apparent extent of the decline in gas production from older fields is not as significant as that shown for oil fields (Chart F.4). This is partly because most associated gas production is not back allocated to individual fields and, therefore, the associated gas
is based on terminal start date rather than field start date. However, it should be noted, as mentioned above (in paragraph F.9), for fields that commenced production in 2000 to 2004, the impact of the suspension of production from the Elgin/Franklin area in March 2012 because of a gas leak is clearly reflected.

Disposals of crude oil (Table F.4)

F.12 Table F.4 and Chart F.6 show the destination of crude oil split between amounts to UK refineries and exports (see technical notes, paragraphs F.14 to F.21) by country of destination (from which it may be transhipped elsewhere). The figures are obtained from returns made to the Oil and Gas Authority by operators of oil fields and onshore terminals under the Petroleum Production Reporting System (see paragraphs F.16 to F.18).

Chart F.6: UKCS disposals of crude oil 2018

Total disposals: 40 million tonnes

- To UK refineries 15.1% (6 million tonnes)
- Netherlands 34.8%
- Germany 9%
- South Korea 9.1%
- China 14.1%
- France 3.1%
- USA 2.5%
- Other (1) 12.2%
- Exports 84.9% (34 million tonnes)

(1) Of which: Spain 24%, Republic of Ireland 17%, Canada 10%, Singapore 10%, Sweden 7%, Denmark 6% and Norway 5% (for remainder see table F.4).

F.13 The exports figures in Table F.4 may differ from those compiled by the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA) and published in Chapter 3. UKPIA figures also include re-exports. These are products that have been imported into the UK and stored before being exported from the UK, and were never part of UK production.
Technical notes and definitions

Petroleum Production Reporting System

F.14 Licensees operating on the UK Continental Shelf are required to make monthly returns on their production of hydrocarbons to the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA). OGA compiles this information in the Petroleum Production Reporting System (PPRS). The PPRS is used to report flows, stocks and uses of hydrocarbon from the well-head through to final disposals from a pipeline or terminal and is the major source of the information presented in this chapter.

F.15 Returns are collected covering field and terminal data compiled by relevant reporting units. Each type of return is provided by a single operator, but usually covers the production of a number of companies, since frequently operations carried out on the Continental Shelf involve several companies working together in joint ventures.

F.16 Every production system has one or more sets of certified meters to measure oil, gas or condensate production. The flows measured by the meters are used to check the consistency of returns and are therefore used to assure the accuracy of the PPRS.

Exports

F.17 The term exports used in Table F.4 refers to figures recorded by producers of oil and gas for their exports. These figures may differ from the figures for exports compiled by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and given in Annex G. In addition, HMRC now differentiate between EU and non-EU trade by using the term dispatches for trade going to other EU countries, with exports retained for trade going to non-EU countries. The differences can occur between results from the two sources of information because, whilst the trader’s figures are a record of actual shipments in the period, for non-EU trade HMRC figures show the trade as declared by exporters on documents received during the period stated.

F.18 In addition, trade in oil frequently involves a “string” of transactions, which can result in the actual destination of the exports changing several times even after the goods have been dispatched. As such, differences can arise between the final country of destination of the exports as recorded by the producers themselves and in the HMRC figures. The HMRC figures also include re-exports. These are products that might originally have been imported into the UK and stored before being exported back out of the UK, as opposed to actually having been produced in the UK.

F.19 In editions of the Digest before 1997, these exports were called “shipments” in an attempt to highlight their difference from the other sources of trade data.

Units of measurement for gas

F.20 The basic unit of measurement for quantities of flows and stocks is volume in cubic metres at a temperature of 15°C and a pressure of 1.01325 bar.

Monthly and Quarterly data

F.21 Monthly and quarterly data on the production of crude oil and natural gas from the UKCS, along with details of imports and exports of oil, oil products and gas, are available. This information can be obtained free of charge by following the links given at the BEIS Energy Statistics section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy/about/statistics

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Annex G

Foreign trade

This annex provides an overview of published trade data by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on energy products in the UK. There are some differences in methodology between the HMRC energy trade data and data presented in the main chapters of DUKES. In the main chapters, the trade data are produced from a combination of data from HMRC and direct from companies responding to BEIS statistical surveys. The data for this annex are presented in tables G.1 – G.7 available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dukes-foreign-trade-statistics

Main points for 2018

Provisional data from HMRC show that:

- There was a total of 145.5 million tonnes of oil equivalent (mtoe) of fuels for energy use imported to the UK in 2018 which was 0.7 per cent lower than the amount imported in 2017 (table G.1).
- Exports of fuels fell in 2018 by 9.1 per cent to 83.1 mtoe (table G.1).
- The energy trade deficit stood at £17.4 billion, 38 per cent more than in 2017. The increase was largely due to increased deficit in all energy products, except for crude oil where there was a surplus. (table G.7).

Imports by fuel type:

- Coal imports rose by 21 per cent to 10.6 million tonnes in 2018 (table G.2).
- Crude oil imports fell by 8.8 per cent to around 46 million tonnes as indigenous production rose and demand at refineries processing fell (table G.3).
- HMRC data shows that the UK was a net importer of petroleum product in 2018 by 12.2 million tonnes (table G.3).
- Gas imports in 2018 at 517 TWh was broadly similar to the previous year, and within which liquified natural gas (LNG) imports rose by 6.4 per cent (table G.5).

Introduction

G.1 This annex provides an overview of the UK energy trade commodities which also corresponds with that published in the Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom (O.T.S.)\(^1\). Section I of this annex covers energy trade volumes while section II covers energy trade value.

G.2 The volume information in section I, focuses on the declaration made to HMRC on UK imports and exports in relation to countries outside the European Union (EU) as well as on arrivals and dispatches (equivalent to imports and exports respectively) in relation to EU member states. In table G.1, BEIS has converted the HMRC data into million tonnes of oil equivalent (mtoe), so that energy sources can be combined to provide an overview of total trade. The value information, in section II, previously corresponded to that published by the Office for National Statistics energy trade value data but data for 2016 onwards uses data direct from source; the HMRC UK Trade Info data.

G.3 In this annex, BEIS has used estimates based on its industry trade reports for some recent gas data to improve on the accuracy and quality of the data. Those estimates are indicated and footnoted in the tables.

\(^1\)www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Pages/Statistics.aspx
SECTION I - Volume

1.1 Overview - Import and export of fuels

G.4 In the 1970s the UK was a net importer of energy. Discoveries of oil and gas from the North Sea and the price spikes of 1973 led to a large rise in domestic UK crude oil production. In the early 1980s the UK became a net exporter of energy. However, as a result of the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988, oil production fell, leading to the UK reverting back to being a net importer of energy.

The UK briefly once again became a net exporter in the mid-1990s as a result of growth in the North Sea production, but after the peak in 1999, North Sea production slowed and since 2004 the UK once again became and has remained a net importer of fuels. Chart G.1a below shows the UK net import dependence level (net imports compared to supply) from 1970 to 2017, based on BEIS data. Following the peak in 2013 net import dependency has fallen, with a sharp fall in 2015. However over the past three years net import dependency has levelled off and in 2018 was broadly similar to the previous year at 36 per cent as net imports fell slightly by 0.7 per cent while supply fell by 0.3 per cent.

Chart G.1a: UK import dependency, 1970 - 2018

G.5 HMRC data however shows that since the switch from being a net exporter in 2003 to a net importer in 2004, the UK has continued to remain a net importer of energy. Net imports have since grown considerably as the falls in UK energy consumption have been outweighed by the continuing decline in production. Since the peak in 2012, HMRC net imports have been on the decline but in 2018, provisional total net imports of fuels showed an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year to 62.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent (mtoe); as imports fell slightly by 0.7 per cent while exports fell by 9.1 per cent (Chart G.1b). Table G.1, at the end of this annex, shows the HMRC UK import and export quantities for all fuel types since 2001.

Chart G.1b: UK net imports of fuel, 2003 - 2018
G.6 **Chart G.2** illustrates trade by fuel type based on HMRC volume data together with average BEIS data on the energy content of the fuels for 2018 and in which the UK was a net importer of all fuels. The UK has for a long time been a net exporter of petroleum products but over the past few years exports levels have declined. In 2018 despite the rise in indigenous production and increase in crude prices, activities at refineries fell due to high levels of maintenance activities. The UK was again a net importer of petroleum products in 2018 as production fell by 2.7 per cent and though demand also fell - by 1.7 per cent. BEIS petroleum products volume data shows the switch from net exports to net imports occurred in 2013, a year earlier to the HMRC data.

**Chart G.2: Imports and exports by fuel type, 2018**

1.2 **Coal and manufactured solid fuels**

G.7 Imports of coal peaked in 2006. Since then there has been a gradual decrease, as coal demand for electricity generation has fallen. Generation from coal became more attractive between 2012 and 2013 as gas prices peaked, resulting in increased imports. Coal imports have since fallen steeply to their lowest level for more than 10 years. In 2018, the UK imported 10.6 million tonnes of coal and other solid fuels, 21 per cent (1.9 million tonnes) more than in the previous year largely to replace draw down in stock. **Chart G.3** illustrates the trends in the imports of coal by country for the years 2004-2018.

**Chart G.3: Imports of coal by country of origin 2004 - 2018**

G.8 **Table G.2**, provides a breakdown of HMRC imports and exports of steam coal, coking coal, anthracite and other solid fuels by country of origin and destination.
Coal imports from Russia have been steadily increasing and in 2005, Russia overtook South Africa to become the UK’s largest coal provider. Though it has since continued to be so; over the recent years imports of coal from Russia have declined sharply. Over the past two years, the bigger shares of coal imports have been from Russia and the USA. In 2018 coal imports increased by 21 per cent with increases from Russia by 28 per cent and from the USA by 58 per cent. In 2018 of the UK’s total coal imports 37 per cent were from Russia, 34 per cent were from the US and only 7.1 per cent were from Colombia.

Of the total coal imported in 2018, 60 per cent was steam coal, 33 per cent was coking coal and the rest anthracite and other solid fuels. In 2018, steam coal imports were up by 38 per cent with imports from Russia up 37 per cent to 3 million tonnes, from the US imports were up almost doubled to 2.6 million tonnes but from Colombia steam coal imports were down by 6.9 per cent to slightly below 0.6 million tonnes.

In 2018, 29 per cent of the UK coking coal imports came from the US followed by 24 per cent from Russia and another 22 per cent from Australia. The bulk of anthracite and other solid fuels imports were from EU countries.

Exports of coal and other solid fuels rose by 38 per cent to 0.8 million tonnes in 2018 of which 41 per cent were to the Irish Republic, 4.5 percentage points lower than in the previous year.

Crude oil and petroleum products

Trade quantities, in thousands of tonnes, of crude oil and refined petroleum products are shown in Table G.3. In the table, the import values per tonne are expressed on a cost, insurance and freight (c.i.f) basis while the export values are on a free on board (f.o.b) basis (e.g. costs of goods to the purchaser abroad) – see section II for more details.

Norway remains the major crude oil supplier to the UK and since the low in 2013, crude oil imports from this country have grown again (chart G.5), though in 2018 Norway imports were 25 per cent lower than in the previous year. In 2018, Norway supplied 47 per cent of the UK’s total crude oil imports compared to 76 per cent in 2003. The majority of the remaining imports came from the OPEC African countries such as Algeria, Angola, Libya and Nigeria which together accounted for 26 per cent of the total crude imports. In 2018 imports from USA grew to 15 per cent of the total while imports from Russia were 5.1 per cent and from Saudi Arabia, 2.5 per cent of the total.
In 2018, exports of crude oil fell by 6.8 per cent on the previous year with exports to EU countries down by 6 per cent and accounted for 63 per cent of the UK’s total exports of crude oil. The UK’s two largest markets in the EU are The Netherlands and Germany; the bulk of the exports to Germany are for refining and consumption, whilst exports to the Netherlands include oil destined for onward trade to other countries. The largest non-EU markets for crude oil in 2018 were China, down 6.7 per cent on the previous year and accounted for 51 per cent of the total Non-EU exports followed by South Korea where though exports have fallen by 29 per cent, accounted for 29 per cent of the total non-EU exports.

Chart G.5: Imports of crude oil by country of origin, 2004 - 2018

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<th>OPEC African countries*</th>
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<td>65</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
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* The OPEC African members are Algeria, Angola, Nigeria and Libya

G.16 The main refined petroleum products imported into the United Kingdom remained as gas & diesel oil which together accounted for 40 per cent of the total; followed by aviation turbine fuel (kerosene) which accounted for 24 per cent. The main refined petroleum products exported in 2018 were motor & aviation spirits; gas & diesel oil and fuel oils which together accounted for 65 per cent of the total.

G.17 On a net trade basis, in 2018 HMRC data show that the UK was again a net importer of petroleum products with net imports of 12.2 million tonnes (Chart G.4), and which was just under 3 million tonnes more than in the previous year. In 2018 the UK net imports of aviation turbine fuel were 8.1 million tonnes and of gas/diesel oils 10.3 million tonnes. However, in 2018 the UK was also a net exporter of some petroleum products of which petrol (5.0 million tonnes) and fuel oils (0.3 million tonnes).

1.4 Imports and exports of natural gas

G.18 Between 1997 and 2003 the UK was a net exporter of gas. UK gas production peaked in 2000 and has since been in general decline and broadly flat in recent years. As a result the UK has sought to access additional supplies of gas from a range of sources to bridge the gap between indigenous production and demand as reserves on the UK Continental Shelf deplete.

G.19 Since 1999 natural gas imports have been increasing sharply, but since the peak in 2010 imports levels have declined remaining broadly level in recent years. In 2018 gas imports were broadly similar to the previous year as demand increased slightly by 0.9 per cent. Since the peak reached in 2015, natural gas exports have declined steadily. In 2018 natural gas exports fell by 33 per cent as exports to Belgium fell by 44 per cent. Chart G.6 depicts the trends in natural gas imports and exports by country. It also includes trends in the volume of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports (see Chart G.7 for country breakdown of LNG imports). The UK has one of the world’s largest LNG importation terminals by capacity and the largest in Europe at South Hook near Milford Haven, and the UK also has the pipeline structure to then export natural gas to the continent. Since 2015 the UK began to re-export imported LNG from storage which in 2018 accounted for 2.2 per cent of the total gas exports and were 59 per cent lower than in the previous year.

G.20 Table G.5 gives a breakdown of imports and exports of natural gas by country of origin and destination. The data in the table are physical flows as reported by the pipeline or terminal operators to BEIS. Whilst the data presented in the table differ from the nominated flows reported in Chapter 4, the overall net flows (e.g net imports or net exports) are the same.
In 2017 the UK exported 83 TWh of gas which was 33 per cent lower than in 2017. Belgium was the main destination of UK gas exports (from where it could be shipped elsewhere in mainland Europe) followed by The Republic of Ireland. In 2018 whilst gas exports to Belgium fell 44 per cent, exports to The Republic of Ireland rose by 23 per cent. The other main destination of UK gas exports was the Netherlands via the UK share gas fields using the Dutch WGT pipeline system to Den Helder and Uithuizen.

Chart G.6: Imports and exports of natural gas by country, 2004 - 2018

In 2018 the UK imported 517 TWh of gas which was broadly similar to 2017. Around 72 per cent of gas imports were from the Norwegian Continental Shelf while only 6.9 per cent were from Belgium, an increase of 21 per cent on the previous year. LNG imports from various sources (Chart G.7) rose by 6.4 per cent and accounted for 15 per cent of total gas imports in 2018. LNG imports from Qatar were nearly half that in the previous year and accounted for 41 per cent of total LNG imports in 2018. Supplies were also delivered to the UK from the European mainland via the Balgzand (Netherlands)-Bacton interconnector and from Zeebrugge (Belgium) via the interconnector with Belgium. The origin of the gas molecules from mainland Europe is not known hence are assigned to the Netherlands and Belgium.

The UK does not import natural gas from Russia but in 2018 there were several shipments of LNG from Russia. The physical origins of the gas through the pipelines are not available. It is possible that a very small amount of gas from Russia finds its way across continental Europe to the UK, but given the gas pipeline infrastructure it is believed that most of the gas from the Netherlands is sourced from the Dutch sector of the North Sea, and that most of the gas from Belgium is sourced from Norway via Zeepipe (which terminates at Zeebrugge). Thus, any UK gas sourced from Russia is negligible.

Chart G.7: Imports of LNG by country, 2008 - 2018
1.5 Imports and exports of electricity

G.24 For over a decade, the UK has been a net importer of electricity. In 2018, imports of electricity were mainly from France (13.3 TWh) and the Netherlands (6.4 TWh); whilst exports were mainly to Ireland. In 2018, imports of electricity rose by 17 per cent to 21.3 TWh due to a rise in imports from France. However, exports of electricity fell by 35 per cent to 2.2 TWh. As a result, net imports rose by 29 per cent from 14.8 TWh to 19.1 TWh.

1.6 Imports and exports of renewables

G.25 Apart from wood pellets and biodiesel, HMRC do not collect any other specific data on the imports of renewables intended to be used for energy purposes. In 2018, wood pellets imports to the UK, mainly from the United States, were just under 8 million tonnes, an increase of 15 per cent on the previous year (table G.6) while imports of biodiesel were 7.5 thousand tonnes, an increase of 21 per cent. In 2018 BEIS estimates of total renewables imports to the UK which include wood, wood waste, biomass and liquid biofuels were 4.3 mtoe, up 22 per cent on the previous year.

UK markets in 2018

G.26 Chart G.8 below shows the UK’s ten largest markets in volume trade of coal, primary oils and oil products, gas, electricity and renewables, in million tonnes of oil equivalent, in 2018.

In 2018, 36 per cent of the total imports to the UK were from Norway followed by 7.6 per cent from the United States while 26 per cent of the total UK exports were to The Netherlands and to China 12 per cent.

Chart G.8 UK trade by country of imports and exports

Source DUKES 2019
SECTION II – Value

2.1 Imports and exports of fuels (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

G.27 For statistical purposes, the UK adopts the valuation basis for overseas trade statistics (OTS) as recommended in the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Concepts & Definitions published by the United Nations. This means that the valuation of exports and dispatches is on a free on board (fob) basis (eg costs of goods to the purchaser abroad) while the valuation of imports and arrivals is on a cost, insurance and freight (cif) basis which includes all the incurred expenses in moving the goods to the point of entry into the UK, but excludes any duty or tax chargeable in the UK.

G.28 On an OTS basis, following the switch from the energy trade surplus of £0.6 billion in 2004, the UK has remained in deficit (Chart G.9). Between 2005 and 2008, the energy trade deficit grew steadily but fell back in 2009 reflecting lower oil prices. It has since continued to grow significantly reaching £22 billion in 2012 but in 2013 it fell back again driven by a fall in the deficit of crude oil and petroleum products. Over the past few years, deficits have increased and in 2018 the deficit rose by 38 per cent to around £17.4 billion with increases in crude oil and gas prices. The deficit of crude oil and petroleum products, on the same basis, in 2018 was £6.2 billion (nearly 38 per cent more than in 2017) compared to a £2.2 billion surplus in 2004 (Chart G.10).

Chart G.9: Value of net exports of fuel, 2004 - 2018

Chart G.10: Value in trade of oils(1), 2007 - 2018

(1) Crude oil and petroleum products

Imports on CIF, exports on FOB basis
2.2 Imports and exports of fuels (Balance of Payment basis)

G.29 In order to conform with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles their energy trade data on a balance of payment basis (BOP) in which the value of goods is the value at the point of the exporting country, e.g. the freight and insurance costs to the UK is excluded from the value recorded by HMRC.

G.30 Chart G.11 shows the net exports of fuels in value terms on a BOP basis since 1970. The United Kingdom’s trade in fuels was dominated by imports until exports started to grow substantially in the mid-1970s, when production from the North Sea started, resulting in a trade surplus in 1981. This surplus was sustained between 1981 and 2003, except for a small deficit in 1989, and amounted to just under £80 billion over that period. However, these surpluses were reduced by the fall in oil prices in 1986, and then by the fall in North Sea production following the Piper Alpha accident in 1988 and the resulting safety works. Although the trade surplus increased steadily from 1992 to 1996, there were falls in 1997 and 1998 due to the drop in the price of crude oil. Prices of crude oil and petroleum products increased in 1999 and again in 2000 giving it, in current price terms, the highest net surplus. In 2001 the value of the trade surplus fell, reflecting falls in the price of crude oil and petroleum products; however, this was partly reversed by a 5 per cent increase in the net trade surplus during 2002.

G.31 Since 2004 the UK has been a net importer of fuels with deficits recorded both for oil and the other fuels series. The deficit increased sharply in 2008 due to a sharp rise in the price of crude oil with Brent prices increasing by $25 per barrel to $98 per barrel, before falling back to $62 per barrel in 2009. In 2011 there was another sharp increase in the size of the energy trade deficit, which more than doubled that in 2010, from £9.5 billion to £20.2 billion; this was mainly due to the oil deficit increasing from £4.3 billion to £10.9 billion, as oil prices rose sharply from an average of $80 per barrel in 2010 to $111 per barrel in 2011. Between 2013 and 2016 deficit fell as crude oil prices fell, reaching a low of £45 in 2016. In 2018, on a BOP basis, the total deficit was £18.4 billion, £3.3 billion more than in the previous year driven by increased deficit in crude oil of £0.6 billion, as less crude oil were imported at higher prices and deficit in other fuels which increased by £2.7 billion. Crude oil price rose by around $17 per barrel to stand at $72 per barrel in 2018.

Chart G.11: Value of net exports of fuels on a balance of payment basis, 1970 -2018

G.32 Table G.7 shows the trends in the UK trade values from 1970 to 2018 both on an OTS and BOP basis. Import values on a f.o.b. basis are also included in the table, to allow net exports to be presented on a comparable f.o.b. basis over the same period.
Technical notes and definitions

G.33 The figures of imports and exports quoted in this annex are derived from notifications to HM Revenue and Customs and may differ from those for actual arrivals and shipments, derived from alternative and/or additional sources, in the sections of the Digest dealing with individual fuels. Data in Table G.1 also include unpublished revisions to Customs data, which cannot be introduced into Tables G.3 to G.5.

G.34 All quantity figures in Table G.1 have been converted to million tonnes of oil equivalent to allow data to be compared and combined. This unit is a measure of the energy content of the individual fuels; it is also used in the Energy section of this Digest and is explained in Annex A, paragraphs A.45 to A.46. The quantities of imports and exports recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics, in their original units of measurement, are converted to tonnes of oil equivalent using weighted gross calorific values and standard conversion factors appropriate to each division of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). The electricity figures are expressed in terms of the energy content of the electricity traded.

G.35 Except as noted in Table G.7, values of imports are quoted “c.i.f.” (cost, insurance and freight). Briefly this value is the price that the goods would fetch at that time, on sale in the open market between buyer and seller independent of each other, with delivery to the buyer at the port of importation, the seller bearing freight, insurance and all other costs, etc, incidental to the sale and delivery of the goods with the exception of any duty or tax chargeable in the United Kingdom. Values of exports are “f.o.b.” (free on board), which is the cost of the goods to the purchaser abroad, including packing, inland and coastal transport in the United Kingdom, dock dues, loading charges and all other costs, charges and expenses accruing up to the point where the goods are deposited on board the exporting vessel or at the land boundary of Northern Ireland.

G.36 Figures of the value of net exports in Tables G.7 are derived from exports and imports measured on a Balance of Payments (B.O.P) basis. The figures are consistent with the European System of Accounts 1995, the basis on which they are published by the Office for National Statistics and since 2016 HMRC through their UK Trade Info dataset. This means exports as recorded by HM Revenue and Customs on any other basis, will differ from those recorded by the Office for National Statistics and UK Trade Info on a B.O.P basis.

G.37 Figures correspond to the following items of SITC (Rev 3) at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=14&Lg=1

- Coal: 321.1 and 321.2
- Other solid fuels: 322 and 325 (part)
- Crude oil: 333
- Petroleum products: 334, 335, 342 and 344 (plus Orimulsion reclassified to division 278 during 1994)
- Natural gas: 343
- Electricity: 351

G.38 In 1993, the Single European Market was created. At that time, a new system for recording the trade in goods between member states, called INTRASTAT, was introduced. As part of this system only obliges small traders to report their annual trade and as some trading supply returns are late, it is necessary to include adjustments for unrecorded trade. This is particularly true of 1993, the first year of the system and of coal imports in that year.

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Annex H

Flow charts

Introduction

H.1 This section brings together the flow charts for individual fuels contained in the main Digest publication. Chart H.1 is for Coal, Chart H.2 is for Petroleum, Chart H.3 is for Natural Gas, Chart H.4 is for Electricity and Chart H.5 is for Renewables. Annual updates will appear in subsequent editions of the main Digest publication and on the BEIS section of the GOV.UK website.

H.2 Also included within the annex is an additional flow chart for Manufactured Solid Fuels (H.6). Annual updates will appear on the BEIS section of the GOV.UK website.

Summary flow chart

H.3 A summary flow chart, UK Energy Flow Chart 2018, is also available on the BEIS section of the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-flow-chart-2018. The summary flow chart updates the last energy flow chart which showed data for 2017. It is based on statistics taken from the main Digest publication, Table 1.1 – Energy Balance 2018. The chart is a simplification of the energy balance figures, illustrating the flow of primary fuels from the point at which they become available from home production or imports (on the left) to their eventual final uses (on the right). They are shown in their original state and after being converted into different kinds of energy by the secondary fuel producers. The flows are measured in million tonnes of oil equivalent, with the widths of the bands approximately proportional to the size of the flow they represent. The flow charts for individual fuels have been produced on a similar basis.

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Chart H.1: Coal flow chart 2018 (million tonnes of coal)

Note:
This flow chart is based on the data that appear in Tables 2.1 and 2.4.
Notes:
This flow chart is based on the data that appear in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.
The numbers on either side of the flow chart will not match due to losses in transformation.
Biofuels are not included.
Note: This flow chart is based on the data that appear in Table 4.1, excluding colliery methane.
Chart H.4: Electricity flow chart 2018 (TWh)

Notes:
This flow chart is based on the data in Tables 5.1 (for imports, exports, use, losses and consumption) and 5.6 (fuel used).
(1) Hydro includes generation from pumped storage while electricity used in pumping is included under Energy Industry Use
(2) Conversion, Transmission and Distribution Losses is calculated as fuel used (Table 5.6) minus generation (Table 5.6) plus losses (Table 5.1)
Note: This flow chart is based on data that appear in Tables 6.1 and 6.4.
Chart H.6: Manufactured Solid Fuels flow chart 2018 (thousand tonnes of oil equivalent)
Annex I

Energy balance: Net Calorific Values

Aggregate energy balance (Table I.1)

I.1 These tables, available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-chapter-1-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes show the flows of energy in the United Kingdom from production to final consumption through conversion into secondary fuels such as coke, petroleum products, secondary electricity and heat sold using Net Calorific Values (NCV). The NCVs used are detailed in Annex A of DUKES available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dukes-calorific-values

I.2 A key reason for showing these balances on a NCV basis is to enable comparisons with EU statistics, which use this method. This approach has been used when comparing EU Member States’ shares of renewables in final energy consumption, as set out on pages 78 to 88 of the December 2010 Energy Trends article, Renewable energy: Statistics used for the EU 2020 renewables target.

I.3 The principles behind the presentation used in the Digest are explained in DUKES Annex A. The figures are presented on an energy supplied basis, in tonnes of oil equivalent.

I.4 These energy balance tables have been used in the calculation of the percentage of energy derived from renewable sources, detailed in DUKES Chapter 6, table 6E available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes. The contribution of renewables has continued to grow in recent years, with the share reaching 11.0 per cent in 2018.

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Annex J

Heat reconciliation

Introduction
J.1 Heat sold has been separately identified in the energy balances since 1999. It is defined as heat that is produced and sold under the provision of a contract. The introduction of heat sold into the energy and commodity balances did not affect the individual fuel totals, since the energy used to generate the heat has been deducted from the final consumption section of the energy balances and transferred to the transformation section. The tables show the detailed analysis of the heat generation row of the main energy balances, by sector generating the heat, and are available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-chapter-1-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes

J.2 To make the heat sold information more transparent, data on the quantity of fuel by consuming sector used to produce heat that is subsequently sold are being made available in the tables that accompany this annex.

Methodology
J.3 Following the publication of experimental statistics collected in respect of the Heat, Metering and Billing Regulations (HMBR) database in the March 2018 edition of Energy Trends¹, the data have been evaluated and incorporated into the heat generation figures presented in this annex. As there are gaps in this data, the annual data supply for CHP enabled schemes provided by Ricardo Energy and Environment (as part of the CHPQA scheme²) have been retained for producing the heat sold and fuel input (“heat generation”) for CHP supported schemes.

J.4 For non-CHP schemes, various assumptions have been used:

- Heat supplied has been assumed to be heat sold
- The fuel input has been estimated by assuming the previous efficiency
- Where the fuel categories are not sufficiently disaggregated, historic proportions have been applied
- For those networks which have mixed final consumers, it is difficult to assign heat supplied to each sector. To address this, the average generation for domestic consumers (residential properties display considerably less variation compared to industrial and commercial consumers) was used with the remainder being allocated across industrial consumers, and the commercial and public sectors.

J.5 The decision not to use the HMRB data set for CHP schemes was deemed to be appropriate due to the CHPQA administration data being timely and subject to quality assurance. It also provides the correct level of detail such as fuel type, sector generating heat, and final customer types. In contrast, the previous non-CHP estimates were previously derived from the Building Research Establishment’s “National Survey of Community Heating” that was carried out in 1997, a database of community heating schemes in social housing in 2000, and Community Heating Sales Surveys undertaken between 2003 and 2005. The estimates from these sources have been used to derive heat sold figures since 1999; these estimates are now considered less relevant than the more up to date data collected in the HMBR database despite having to use assumptions to achieve the correct estimates across generators and final customers.

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² www.gov.uk/guidance/chpqa-guidance-notes