



Sub-national domestic electricity consumption in Northern Ireland (experimental data) 2010

Publication URN: 13D/051

Published: June 2013

This factsheet presents the findings of the latest work carried out by DECC in conjunction with the electricity industry in Northern Ireland and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland (DETINI) to estimate domestic electricity consumption in Northern Ireland for the 26 District Councils. It is intended that this information will enable central, local and regional bodies in Northern Ireland to understand patterns of electricity usage in local areas and enable them to target and monitor policies more effectively. It is important to note that these data are classified as experimental statistics and should be viewed and used with care.

These data supplement the existing Great Britain sub-national electricity consumption estimates¹, although these series are not directly comparable due to differing sources and time periods. The data in this factsheet covers the calendar year 2010. The dataset can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/sub-national-electricity-consumption-in-northern-ireland>. For further details on the methodology, assumptions and data interpretation relating to the electricity consumption statistics, please refer to the Methodology and Guidance booklet for Regional energy data which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/sub-national-energy-consumption>. We would be grateful for any feedback on the content of this article. Please send any comments to energyefficiency.stats@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

Background to the domestic electricity market in Northern Ireland

On the 1 November 2007, the Single Electricity Market (SEM) was introduced to Northern Ireland to help provide a stable, transparent and competitive energy market. This reflected the opening up of markets under EC legislation and built upon the privatisation of the electricity supply market following the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992. In 2010, eight supply companies (Airtricity, Bord Gais, Contour Global, Energia, ESBie, Firmus, NIE Energy and Quinn ES) operated within Northern Ireland but only one of these, NIE Energy, supplied electricity to domestic consumers

¹ Sub-national electricity consumption datasets for Great Britain can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011>.



throughout the year. Airtricity entered the domestic market in June 2010 and then Firmus in October 2010.

The data analysed below largely covers the calendar year 2010. They are based on billed units for customers that have been connected for at least 12 months only and as a result data have been uplifted to match annual sales data. The exception to this was the pre-payment (keypad) meter consumption which was instead for the 12 month period ending 31st March 2011 and again this was used where the customer had been connected for at least 12 months.

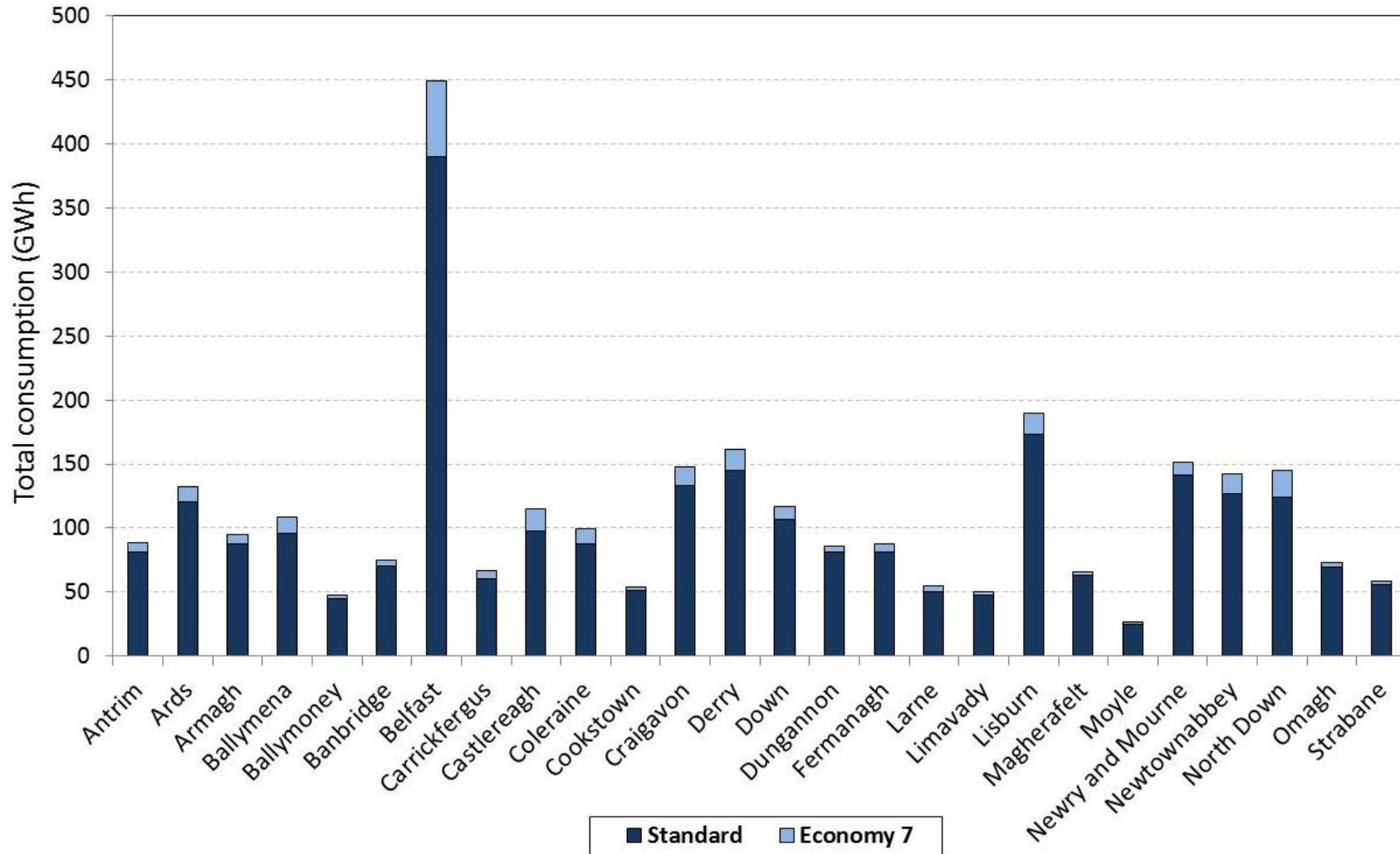
Total annual domestic electricity consumption

Total annual domestic electricity consumption in Northern Ireland in 2010 was estimated to be 2,978 Gigawatt hours (GWh) (compared to 3,146 GWh in 2009). Belfast, the largest city in Northern Ireland, consumed the most domestic electricity at district level – 450 GWh. Moyle was the lowest consuming district with a total consumption of 27 GWh.

By profile type

The relationship between domestic standard and domestic Economy 7 electricity consumption varied from district to district. For Castlereagh, 15 per cent of total domestic consumption was Economy 7 compared to only 4 per cent in Limavady. Chart 1 below details total consumption for each of the 26 districts, split by profile type.

Chart 1 Total domestic consumption by profile type, 2010





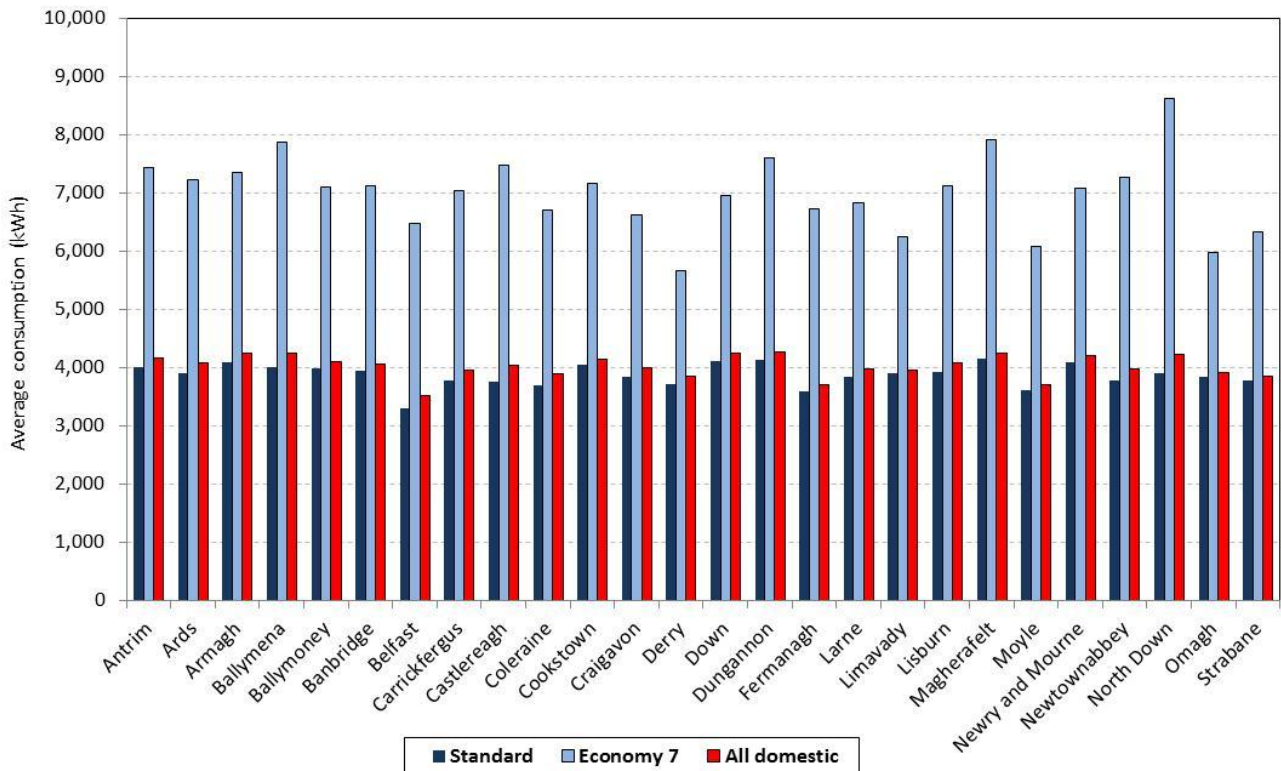
Analysis at district level

Average annual domestic electricity consumption (standard and Economy 7 combined) per meter was 3,956 kWh, which compares with 4,198 kWh for Northern Ireland in 2009. The district with the highest average domestic electricity consumption per meter was Dungannon at 4,266 kWh per meter, with Belfast the lowest at 3,533 kWh per meter. In terms of households, Belfast comprises 17 per cent of total households in Northern Ireland but consumed 15 per cent of total domestic consumption, which explains why Belfast – despite being the highest consuming district – has the lowest average consumption of the 26 districts in Northern Ireland.

By profile type

The average standard domestic consumption per meter in Northern Ireland was 3,785 kWh in 2010 (3,952 kWh in 2009), with a high of 4,165 kWh in Magherafelt and a low of 3,303 kWh in Belfast. Average Economy 7 consumption in Northern Ireland was 72 per cent higher than average standard domestic consumption at 6,924 kWh, with North Down having the highest average Economy 7 consumption at 8,632 kWh and Derry with the lowest at 5,663 kWh per meter. Chart 1 below shows District Council level consumption for the domestic sector split by standard domestic consumption and Economy 7 consumption.

Chart 2 Average domestic electricity consumption per meter by profile type, 2010

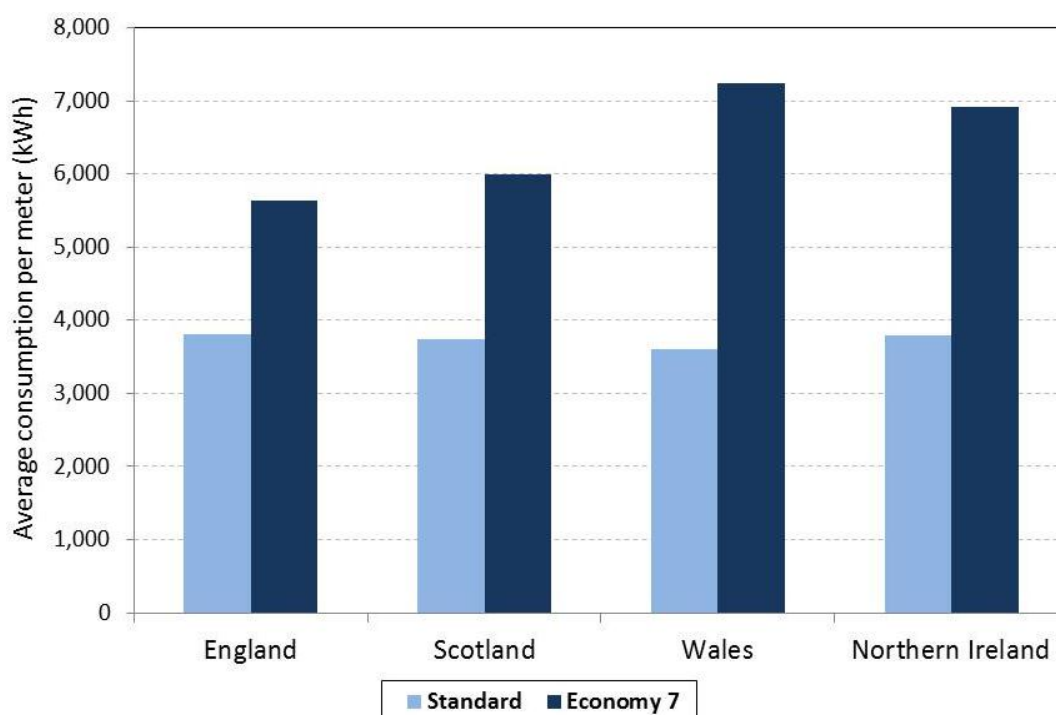




Analysis at UK level

England was responsible for 83 per cent of total UK domestic energy consumption in 2010, followed by Scotland (10 per cent), Wales (5 per cent) and Northern Ireland (3 per cent). England also had the highest average ordinary domestic consumption at 3,810 kWh. For average Economy 7 consumption, Wales consumed the highest per meter with an average of 7,249 kWh (Chart 3).

Chart 3 Average consumption per meter, 2010

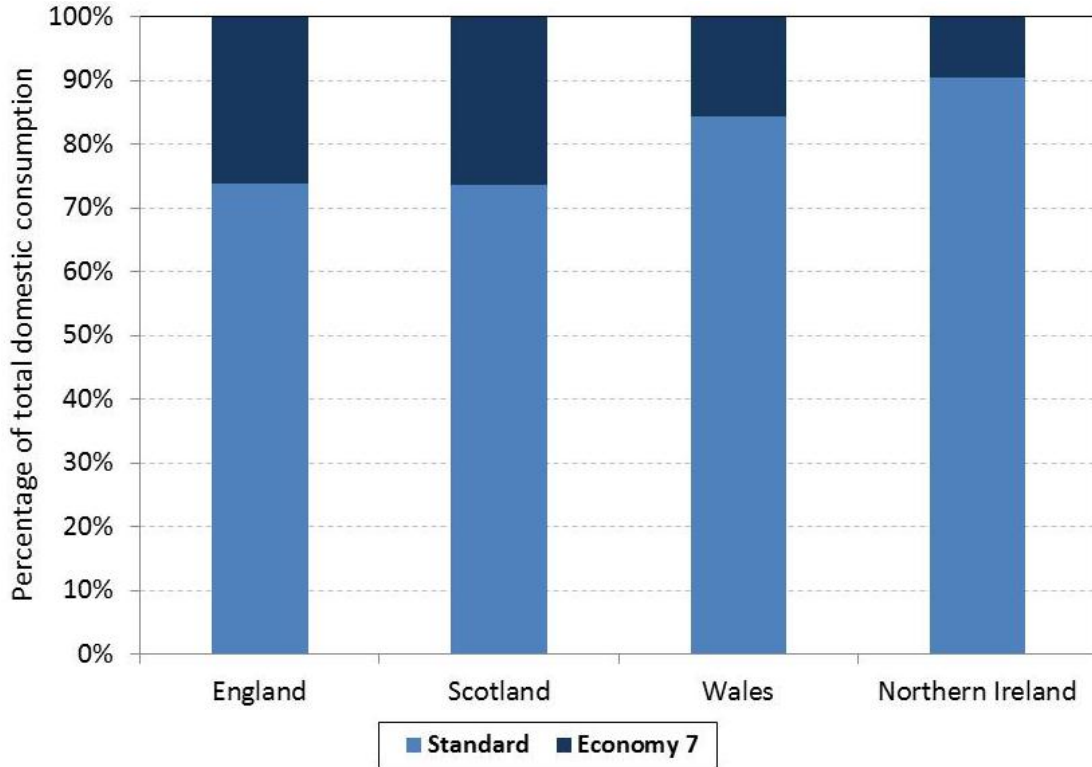


Energy efficiency improvements such as increased levels of insulation and the introduction of more efficient electrical appliances, external temperatures and respective fuel mix in the domestic market for each country, including the availability of gas, will all impact average consumption. For example, the extent to which there are generally less gas connected houses in Northern Ireland would increase average electricity use for heating.

Chart 4 illustrates the distribution between the ordinary standard domestic tariff and the Economy 7 tariff between the countries of the UK. In 2010, 10 per cent of total domestic electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was sold on an Economy 7 tariff. This compares to 26 per cent for both England and Scotland.



Chart 4 **Distribution of total domestic consumption by profile, 2010**



Northern Ireland sub-national consumption data on road transport fuels for the years 2005 to 2011 can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/road-transport-consumption-at-regional-and-local-level>.

Data on residual (i.e. non-electricity, non-gas and non-road transport) fuels for the years 2005 to 2010 can be found on the DECC website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/sub-national-consumption-of-other-fuels>.

Table 1 Sub-national domestic electricity consumption statistics 2010 (Experimental Statistics)

District Council	Standard meters			Economy 7 meters			Domestic meters		
	Total consumption (GWh)	Total number of meters	Mean consumption per meter (kWh)	Total consumption (GWh)	Total number of meters	Mean consumption per meter (kWh)	Total consumption (GWh)	Total number of meters	Mean consumption per meter (kWh)
Antrim	81.491	20,288	4,017	7.461	1,003	7,439	88.952	21,291	4,178
Ards	120.345	30,712	3,919	12.311	1,701	7,237	132.656	32,413	4,093
Armagh	87.804	21,389	4,105	7.193	977	7,362	94.997	22,366	4,247
Ballymena	95.633	23,862	4,008	12.612	1,599	7,887	108.245	25,461	4,251
Ballymoney	45.101	11,265	4,004	2.700	380	7,105	47.801	11,645	4,105
Banbridge	70.730	17,850	3,962	4.268	598	7,138	74.998	18,448	4,065
Belfast	389.848	118,032	3,303	59.664	9,213	6,476	449.512	127,245	3,533
Carrickfergus	59.946	15,867	3,778	6.604	936	7,056	66.550	16,803	3,961
Castlereagh	98.133	26,081	3,763	16.691	2,231	7,481	114.824	28,312	4,056
Coleraine	88.030	23,809	3,697	11.165	1,663	6,714	99.195	25,472	3,894
Cookstown	51.658	12,702	4,067	2.635	368	7,162	54.293	13,070	4,154
Craigavon	133.426	34,710	3,844	14.208	2,146	6,621	147.634	36,856	4,006
Derry	145.316	39,070	3,719	16.095	2,842	5,663	161.411	41,912	3,851
Down	107.214	26,063	4,114	9.261	1,329	6,969	116.475	27,392	4,252
Dungannon	80.950	19,531	4,145	5.379	706	7,619	86.329	20,237	4,266
Fermanagh	81.159	22,589	3,593	6.391	949	6,734	87.550	23,538	3,720
Larne	50.279	13,082	3,843	4.723	690	6,844	55.001	13,772	3,994
Limavady	47.987	12,276	3,909	2.032	325	6,251	50.019	12,601	3,969
Lisburn	173.382	44,196	3,923	16.283	2,282	7,136	189.665	46,478	4,081
Magherafelt	62.791	15,076	4,165	3.233	408	7,925	66.024	15,484	4,264
Moyle	24.984	6,917	3,612	1.683	276	6,096	26.666	7,193	3,707
Newry and Mourne	141.122	34,477	4,093	9.953	1,403	7,094	151.075	35,880	4,211
Newtownabbey	127.078	33,542	3,789	15.201	2,092	7,266	142.279	35,634	3,993
North Down	124.037	31,731	3,909	20.925	2,424	8,632	144.962	34,155	4,244
Omagh	69.724	18,087	3,855	3.427	572	5,992	73.151	18,659	3,920
Strabane	55.512	14,684	3,780	2.697	426	6,331	58.209	15,110	3,852
Unallocated	79.668	23,729	3,357	9.400	1,504	6,250	89.068	25,233	3,530
Total	2,693.346	711,617	3,785	284.195	41,043	6,924	2,977.542	752,660	3,956