

Future changes to Energy Consumption in the UK (ECUK)

Energy Consumption in the UK (ECUK) was first released over a decade ago to bring together a wide range of published data on energy use. Through the raw data and subsequent secondary analysis, the statistics examine changes since 1970, but with greater focus since 1990. The format of this release has changed over the years, following varying degrees of consultation with users: from a hard copy publication to an expanded range of internet only tables with a complementary suite of fact-sheets containing commentary.

Over time, the availability of information for inclusion in ECUK, and the associated uses of energy data, have changed:

- Data on headline energy use by fuel continues to be collected from the energy companies, and is published in the Digest of UK Energy statistics; with the increasing proportion of energy coming from renewable sources, analysis of this data has continued to expand.
- Data on use of energy in households has expanded through work such as of the National Energy Efficiency Data (NEED) framework¹; the promotion of domestic energy efficiency policies has provided a variety of associated administrative data sources; new statistical series have been developed by DECC on deployment and associated metrics relating to feed-in tariffs, renewable heat, green deal, ECO, and smart meters.
- Data on services and industrial energy has become increasingly out of date. One of the key sources of detailed industrial energy use was the ONS Purchases Inquiry (PI); this has not been carried out for a number of years and as such the latest data from that survey cannot robustly be extrapolated to reflect current energy uses. The ONS are planning to reinstate the PI, with data relating to 2016 being made available in 2018.
- Data contained in a few tables within ECUK are available elsewhere online. This is typically within the transport chapter where data on underlying factors affecting the use of energy for transport – such as kilometres (km) driven, number of journeys, and mode of transport, continues to be published by the Department for Transport in its “Transport Statistics Great Britain”² and associated statistical releases.

In addition to ECUK, a series of complementary releases – such as the Energy Efficiency Deployment Office Statistical Summary³, and the development of the NEED framework - have been released since.

Much of the end-uses for services and industrial energy information remains modelled, with some models being developed over 10 years ago, and based on sectorial level data that no-longer reflects the structure of non-domestic energy users. To help fill this gap, DECC are undertaking both quantitative and qualitative research projects to improve our knowledge of non-domestic energy use and new outputs from this work are planned for inclusion in future editions of ECUK; these include Non-domestic NEED⁴, more detailed use of policy linked administration data, and the Building Energy Efficiency Survey research project⁵.

As such the value of large sections of the ECUK publication are currently less than it was when launched and is in a transitional period prior to new data sources being available for the industrial and service sector.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-energy-efficiency-data-need-framework.

² www.gov.uk/government/collections/transport-statistics-great-britain.

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update.

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-non-domestic-national-energy-efficiency-data-framework-nd-need.

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/collections/non-domestic-buildings-energy-use-project.

Our plans for the future

Over the coming two years, DECC plan to reshape and refocus the information contained within the ECUK release.

Information that is currently directly available from other non-DECC published sources – such as Transport Statistics Great Britain - will not be duplicated within the ECUK release. These tables will be clearly marked and web links to the published material will be provided.

Where the underlying information behind the calculations is considered not to reflect the current situation, tables will not be updated until more robust information becomes available. This mainly reflects the industrial and service sector chapters, and associated uses of this data in the overall chapter. The current published material for these tables will remain on the ECUK part of the .gov.uk website until it can be updated through other sources.

Information on energy use in the domestic sector will continue to be developed, and over the coming year a new quarterly statistical report on domestic energy use and associated policies aimed in the household sector will be produced; this will build on and incorporate the content of the existing Green Deal / ECO / Insulation stats release. Some data sources will change – for instance different modelling methods will be used to produce some end uses of energy data. Other data sets will be obtained from the administration of domestic energy efficiency and other policies will be used to develop this release.

As a result of using different data sources, some tables will be updated on a phased basis and so not all data will become available at the end of July when ECUK has previously been updated. However data will be released as soon as it has been produced and quality assured, as required by the code of practice for official statistics. For the 2014 release, many tables will be released on 31 July 2014, however some will be updated on 25 September 2014. The update plans for the 2014 release are available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-consumption-in-the-uk.

For any questions relating to these changes please contact:

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