Changes to the oil and gas tables

In March 2016, DECC consulted on a number of proposals regarding the annual and quarterly tables. These elicited some interest from industry, particularly regarding ceasing publication of some of the tables (for example, those showing the share of road fuels sold through supermarkets and further detail on inland deliveries for non-energy use). As a result, DECC will consult further and take a final decision on the consultation items later this year.

However, we have made a number of changes to the existing tables in line with the consultation suggestions.

Inclusion of 're-loads' of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) cargoes.

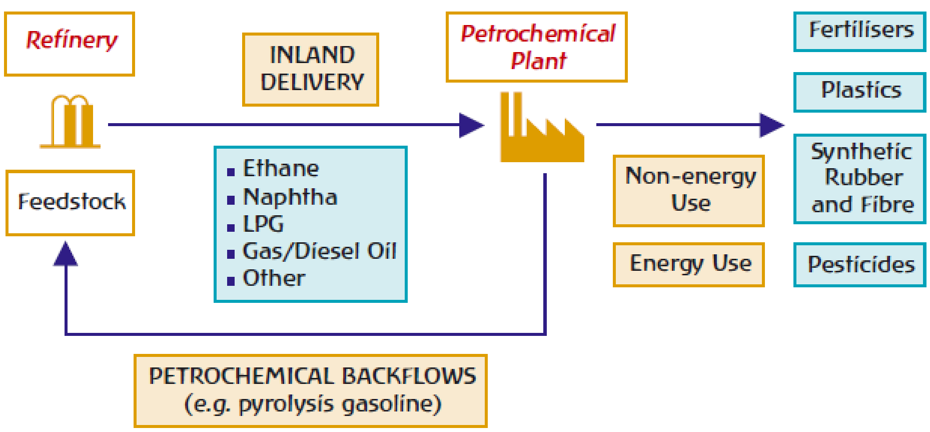
In 2014, the UK made its first reshipment of LNG where volumes of LNG that had been imported and placed into storage were exported. To date, there have been five cargoes and these are now included in the export figures for the UK, as part of the total exports to Belgium. The total volumes of exports were ~3,600 GWh (just under 2 per cent of UK exports). Given that these volumes are relatively small, we have – as yet - not separately identified them in our tables. We will keep this decision under review.

Inclusion of back-flows from the petrochemical industry.

Whilst most petroleum products are used for energy purposes, substantial volumes are delivered to the petrochemical industry as a feedstock for the manufacturing of plastics, synthetic fibres and other products. These products are used, but they are not combusted.

The refining and petrochemical industries are often closely related as shown in the diagram below. Refineries deliver product to a petrochemical plant for the production of a range of products but they also return some petroleum products back to refineries for further processing.

Figure 1: Deliveries to the Petrochemical Sector (Source: IEA)



DECC have previously not separately identified these back-flows but for this edition of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics we have included them under both the upstream side of the balance (in Table 3.1, they are included as part of the 'feedstocks' column) and the downstream part of the balance (in Table 3.2, the volumes are shown on the 'other' row in the transformation section) to ensure that the downstream supply remains in balance for accounting purposes. We continue to consider how best to reflect these within the balances and welcome comments.

Changes to marine bunkering figures.

In 2015, DECC expanded its data collection to obtain information from a wider range of suppliers to the UK market. As a result we now have better quality data in several areas, including deliveries to marine bunkers. This additional information indicated an underestimate in the volumes being delivered to international marine bunkers, in the neighbourhood of 300kt in 2015. As a result, we have revised up our provisional estimates for 2015 and made similar adjustments to the 2013 and 2014 figures.

If you have any questions on these matters, please contact the team.

Warren Evans
Oil and Gas Statistics Team
Tel: 0300 068 5059
E-mail: Warren.Evans@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Natalie Cartwright
Oil and Gas Statistics Team
Tel: 0300 068 5260
E-mail: Natalie.Cartwright@decc.gsi.gov.uk