

Energy imports from Russia

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Key headlines

The UK is one of the larger producers of energy in Europe and met 45 per cent of supply through indigenous production in 2021. Imports made up the remaining 55 per cent and, in total, 5.8 per cent of our energy supply¹ was sourced from Russia in 2021.

The data below describe the changes in Russian imports since 2012 and the proportion of supply sourced from Russia in 2021.²

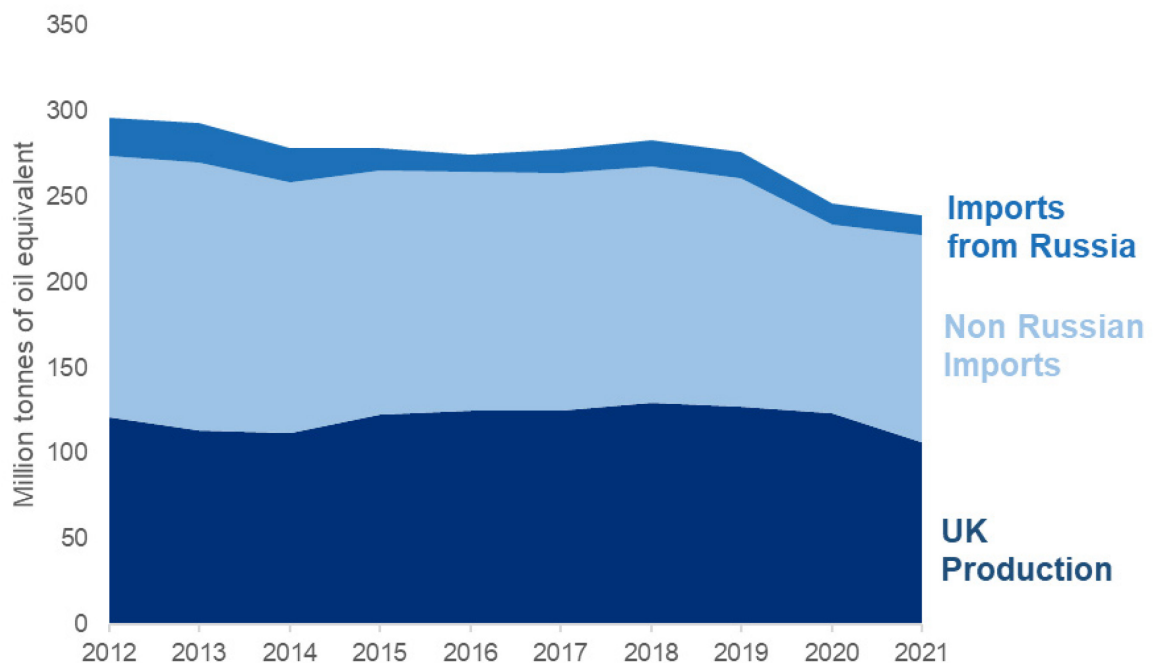
Background

The UK has relatively large indigenous production of oil, gas and primary electricity (including nuclear, wind, solar and hydro) and the contribution of Russian imports is relatively small compared with indigenous production and imports from countries other than Russia.

Russian imports as a share of the UK's energy supply

Chart 1 shows that of the 239 million tonnes of oil equivalent produced or imported into the UK, 14 million tonnes (5.8 per cent) were imported from Russia in 2021. This is up from 5.0 per cent in 2020, but down on 7.6 per cent in 2013.

Chart 1: Russian imports as a share of UK energy supply, 2012 – 2021

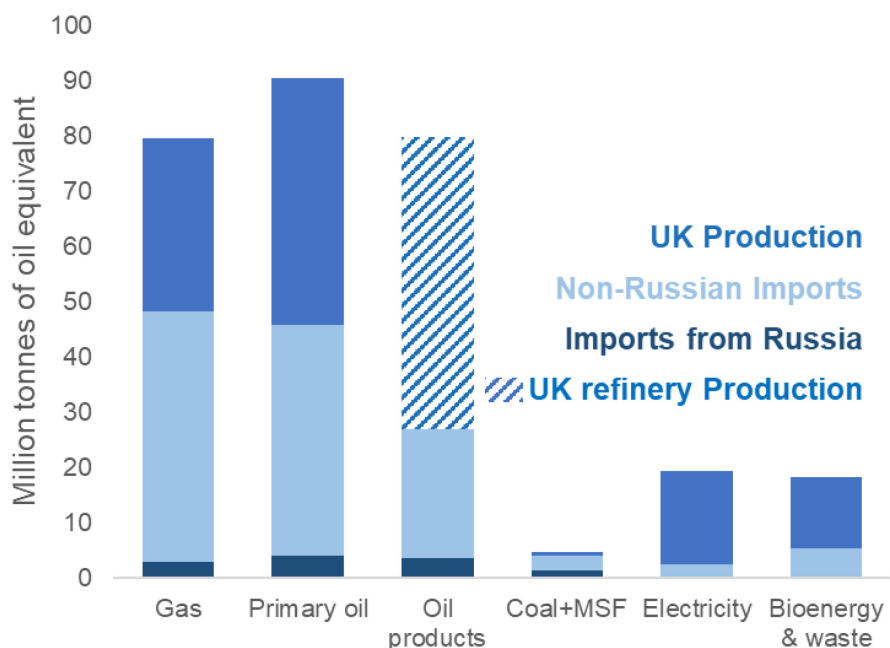


¹ In this article UK supply is defined as domestic production plus imports. It excludes exports and stocks.

² More recent and monthly data on oil imports can be found in table 3.14 of [Energy Trends](#), and more recent data on gas imports in table 4.4 of [Energy Trends](#). Coal data are updated quarterly in table 2.4, also of [Energy Trends](#).

Chart 2 shows that the contribution of imports from Russia by fuel type. While imports from Russia make up a relatively high share of coal supply, coal use in the UK is now much lower than oil or gas and makes up only 2 per cent of the UK supply.

Chart 2: Russian imports as a share of UK energy supply by fuel type, 2021³



Gas

In 2021 3.7 per cent of the UK's supply came from Russia (see Annex A) despite Russia being a large producer of natural gas. All imports from Russia reported by BEIS are shipped to the UK as LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

Oil

In 2021, 4.4 per cent of the UK's supply of primary oil came from Russia (see Annex A). The UK is the second largest producer of primary oil in Europe behind Norway. **In 2021, 6.9 per cent of the UK's supply of petroleum products came from Russia** (see Annex A). Within this, nearly 18 per cent of UK diesel supply came from Russia. However, there were no imports of petrol.

The UK imports petroleum products from a diverse range of countries, the UK's supply is more diverse than the OECD average⁴.

Coal

In 2021, 34 per cent of the UK's coal supply came from Russia (see Annex A). The UK imported nearly 2 million tonnes (1.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent) of coal from Russia (including steam coal, coking coal and anthracite). However, coal imports are far lower than they have been in previous years. The total volumes of coal imports have reduced by 90 per cent since 2012 as the UK has moved away from coal as a major source of energy. In particular, the UK has almost phased out its use of coal to generate electricity.

Electricity

The UK has interconnectors with France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland and Norway. There are no interconnectors between the UK and Russia, therefore there are **zero imports** of Russian electricity.

³ Production of oil products is shown differently to the other fuels in Chart 2 as the oil used for production is already counted in the primary oil supply. The volume shown refers to the transfer for primary oils to petroleum products.

⁴ For more information see the special feature article at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-trends-september-2021-special-feature-article-diversity-of-supply-for-oil-and-oil-products-in-oecd-countries-in-2020>

Annex A: Supply and imports from Russia of natural gas, primary oil, oil products and coal in 2021, thousand tonnes of oil equivalent

2021	Natural gas ⁵	Crude Oils and NGLs ⁶	Feedstock	Total primary oil	Petrol	Diesel	Jet fuel	Other products	Total oil products	Coal ⁷
Gross production	31,297	44,737	324	45,061	16,105	13,051	2,025	24,306	55,488	736
Total imports	48,223	41,663	4,022	45,685	2,910	13,454	5,003	5,719	27,087	3,197
<i>of which: Imports from Russia</i>	2,903	3,120	843	3,962	-	4,641	403	628	5,672	1,354
Supply	79,519	86,400	4,346	90,746	19,015	26,505	7,028	30,026	82,574	3,933
% of supply from Russian imports	3.7%	3.6%	19.4%	4.4%	0.0%	17.5%	5.7%	2.1%	6.9%	34.4%

⁵ Gas imports published in Energy Trends table 4.4 at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gas-section-4-energy-trends>

⁶ Imports of primary oils and petroleum products published in Energy Trends table 3.14 at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/oil-and-oil-products-section-3-energy-trends>

⁷ Coal imports published in Energy Trends table 2.4 at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/solid-fuels-and-derived-gases-section-2-energy-trends>



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