

Chapter 4: Natural Gas

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Key headlines

Natural gas production continues to decline, down 3.4 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024.

Production remains at the lowest level since 1973 as the natural decline of the mature North Sea basin continues.

Imports and exports increased 2.3 and 12 per cent respectively in 2025 compared to 2024.

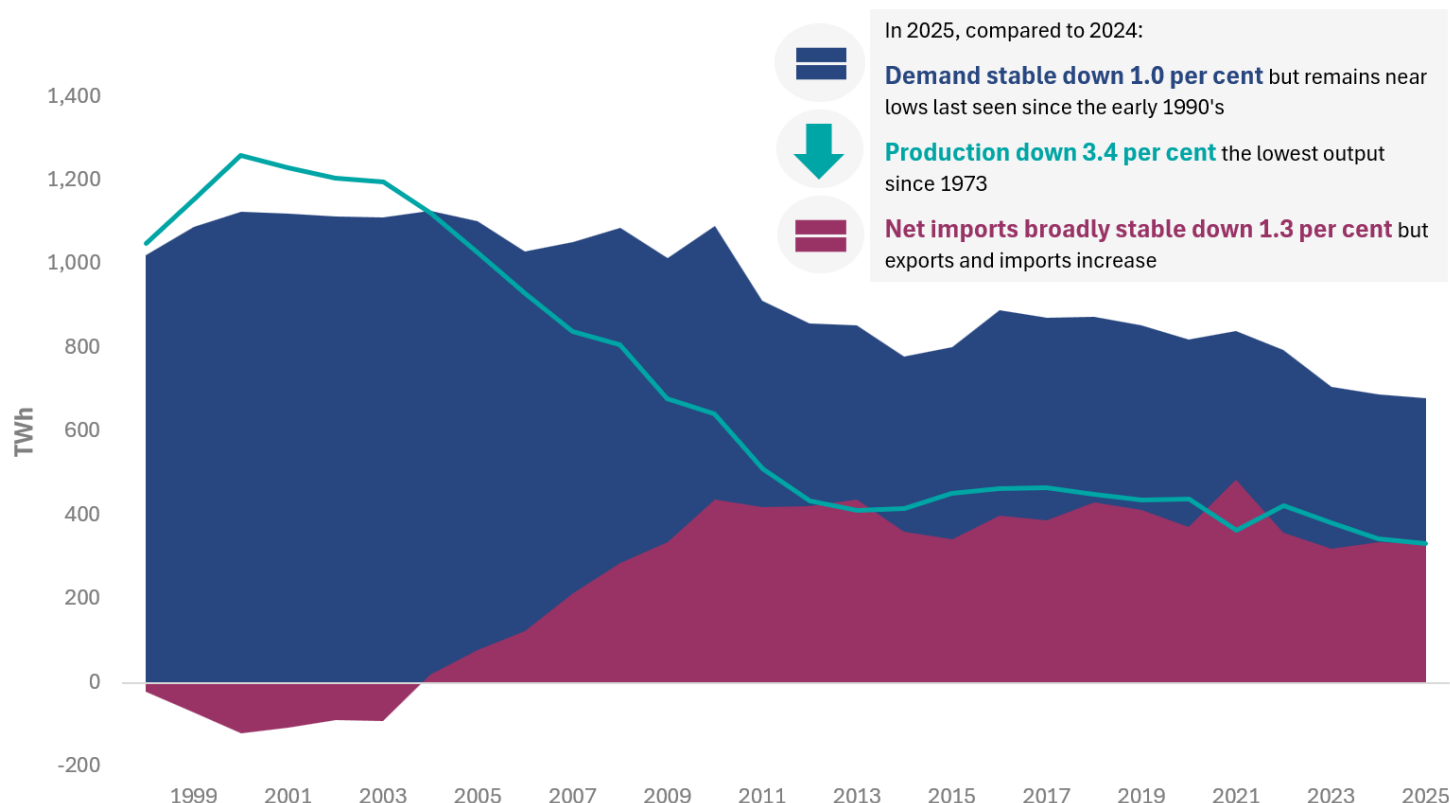
The increase in imports was driven by higher imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), particularly from the US which increased by 38 per cent in the same period. Increased exports, largely to continental Europe, were supported by sustained imports and low demand.

Natural gas demand was broadly stable, decreasing by 1.0 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024.

Increased demand for electricity generation was offset by falling demand by final consumers particularly the services sectors. Demand for electricity generation increased by 7.0 per cent, household demand was stable whereas industrial and services demand fell by 7.8 and 7.6 per cent respectively.

Note this year's DUKES publication includes updates to demand data from 1998, see below or [Methodology changes to Natural Gas Statistics: Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2026](#) for more information.

Chart 4.1 Supply and demand for natural gas, 1998-2025 ([DUKES Table 4.1](#))

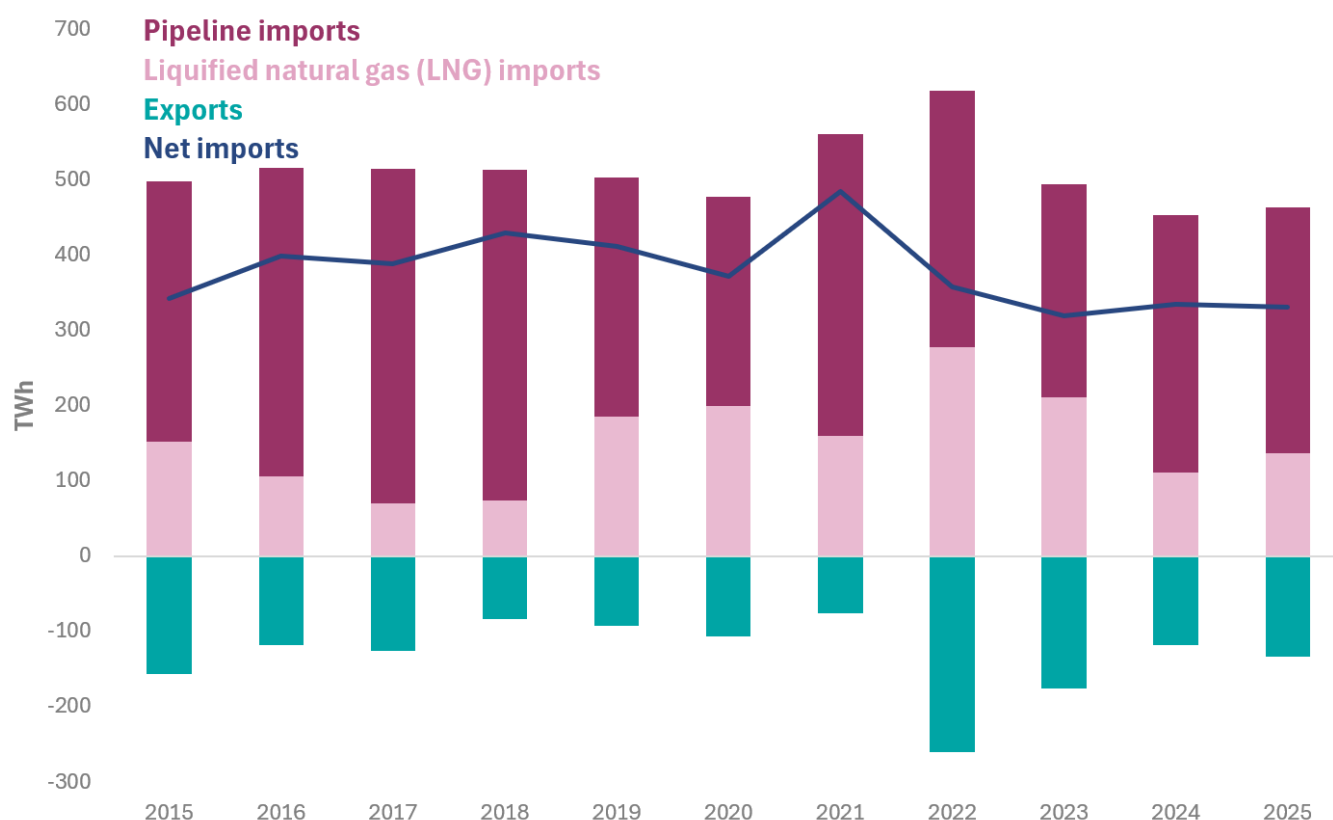


Natural gas demand was largely unchanged in 2025 compared to 2024, decreasing 1.0 per cent; demand remained at lows last seen in 1992 for the third consecutive year. Gas demand fell sharply in 2022, driven by high temperatures, high renewable output, and high energy and other prices following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Since then, demand has remained relatively low as these factors continue to impact consumption. Natural gas demand accounted for 35 per cent of total energy demand in 2025, similar to 2024 (see Chapter 1 for more information).

Production of natural gas continued to fall, remaining at the lowest level since 1973, down 3.4 per cent in 2025 on 2024. This reflects long-term declining output from established North Sea fields. UK gas production started in the 1970s and reached its peak in 2000. Thereafter, production declined overall until 2015, when the development of new fields stabilised output. Production began to fall again from 2019, with a notable decline in 2021 resulting from extensive planned maintenance of the Forties Pipeline System, a key piece of infrastructure serving a substantial proportion of UK oil and gas production. The UK Continental Shelf is a mature production basin, and declines are expected as reserves have been depleted.

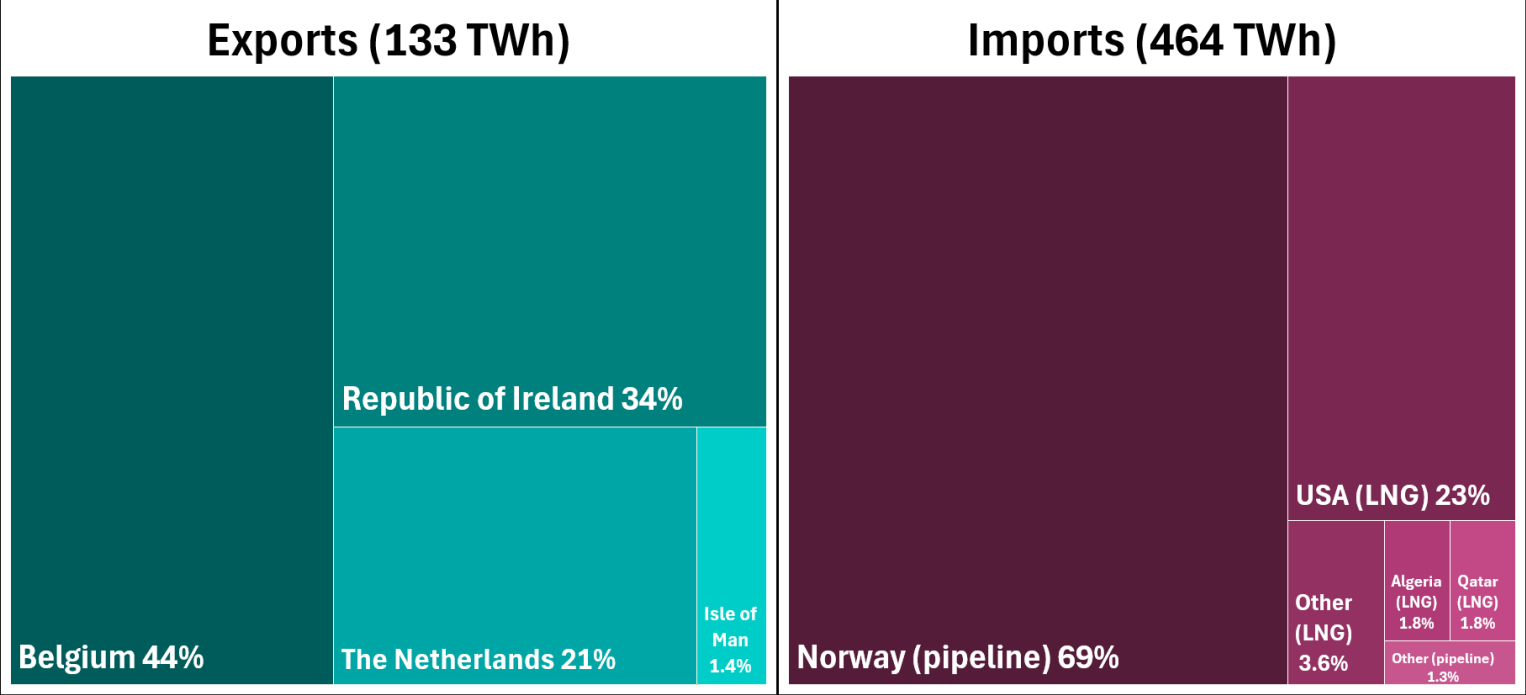
Net imports decreased by 1.3 per cent due to increased exports. The UK has been a net importer of natural gas since 2004.

Chart 4.2 Pipeline and LNG imports and exports of natural gas, 2015-2025 (DUKES Table 4.5)



Imports and exports increased by 2.3 and 12 per cent respectively in 2025 compared to 2024. Imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) increased, up by 24 per cent, whereas pipeline imports decreased by 4.6 per cent in the same period. Sustained imports alongside low demand supported exports with the increase largely due to exports continental Europe. Exports to Belgium and the Netherlands increased by 24 and 9.5 per cent respectively.

Chart 4.3 Imports and exports of natural gas by country of origin, 2025 (DUKES Table 4.5)



Pipeline imports fell 4.6 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024. This was largely due to a 6.0 per cent decrease in Norwegian pipeline imports over the same period. Despite this, Norway remained the UK’s largest import source, accounting for 69 per cent of total imports in 2025, down from 76 per cent in 2024, equivalent to 40 per cent of gross supply. The UK imports substantial amounts of gas from Norway due to proximity and shared infrastructure in the North Sea.

Norway accounted for 98 per cent of pipeline imports as interconnectors with Belgium and the Netherlands were largely used for exports, as has been the case since 2022 following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Pipeline imports from Belgium and the Netherlands were 4 to 5 times larger in 2025 than 2024 although remain substantially smaller than pre-conflict levels.

Imports of LNG from the US increased 38 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024, accounting for 76 per cent of LNG imports and 13 per cent of gross supply. The US remained the second largest import source accounting for 23 per cent of total imports. Historically, Qatar was the largest import source of LNG to the UK, accounting for nearly 40 per cent of total imports at its peak in 2011. Qatar held this position until 2022, but imports have declined in recent years, with Qatari LNG down a further 4.2 per cent in 2025 on 2024. Qatar was the fourth largest import source in 2025 accounting for 6.0 per cent of LNG imports, 1.8 per cent of total imports.

The UK imported LNG from eleven countries in 2025, up from ten in 2024 and down from a record high of thirteen in 2022. Peruvian LNG imports, a new import source in 2017, fell 46 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024. Algerian LNG imports increased 56 per cent in the same period, making them the third largest import source, overtaking Qatar. Imports of LNG from Algeria remain small compared to the US accounting for 6.0 per cent of total LNG imports and 1.8 per cent of total imports in 2025. LNG imports from other sources including Trinidad & Tobago, Angola and Norway decreased compared to 2024, while LNG imports from Egypt fell to zero. LNG imports from Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea increased by 47 and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Exports increased across the board in 2025 compared to 2024; exports to Belgium increased the most of any one country, up 24 per cent. Belgian exports accounted for 44 per cent of total exports, up from 40 per cent in 2024. Exports to the Netherlands, the Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man also increased in the same period

Methodology changes

The Department has undertaken work to improve its understanding of gas consumption; see [Methodology changes to Natural Gas Statistics: Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2026](#) for more information. In DUKES 2026, we have published the outcomes of this work, including revisions to the time series from 1998 to 2024, alongside new data for 2025. Revisions to total natural gas demand, as well as to the domestic sector, are small. There are larger revisions to the industrial and services sectors, where gas was reallocated between the two. There has been very little change to non-domestic demand overall. The largest revisions are to subsectors, the smaller sub-classifications within industry and services.

Chart 4.4 Natural gas consumption in industrial, services, commercial and public administration sectors, 1998-2025 (DUKES Table 4.1)

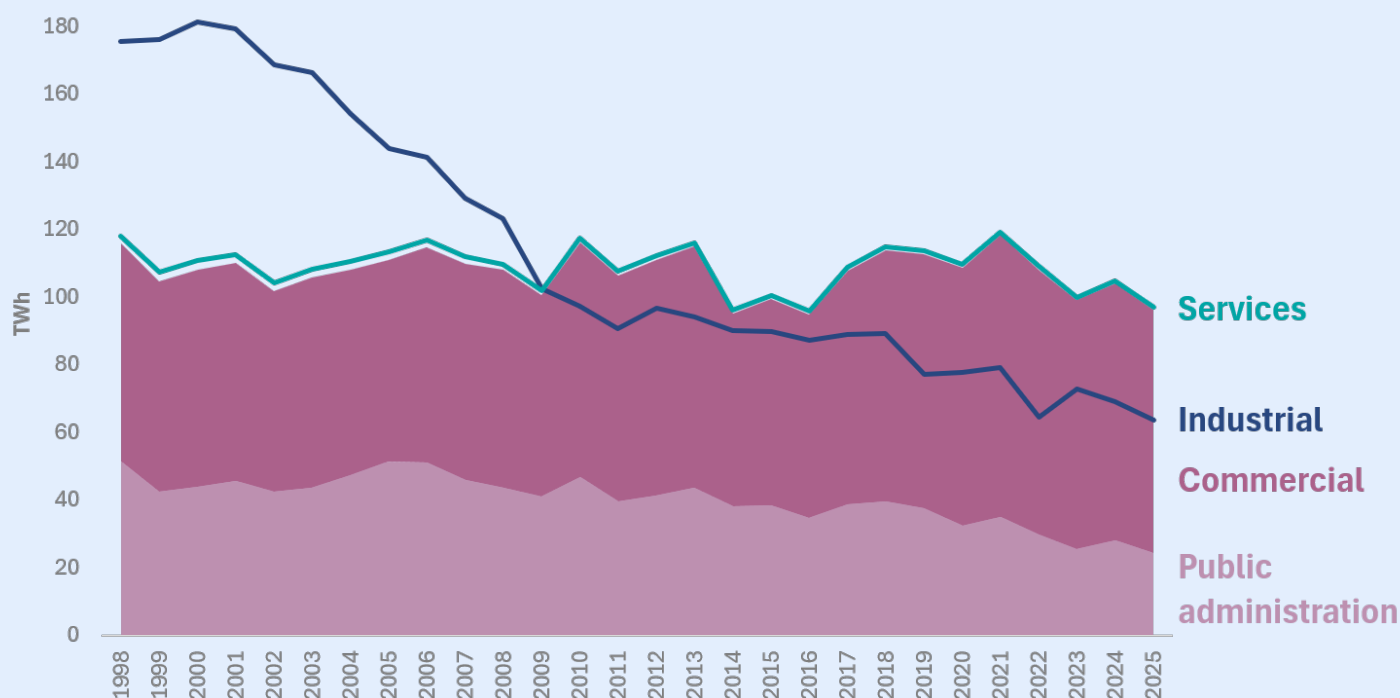
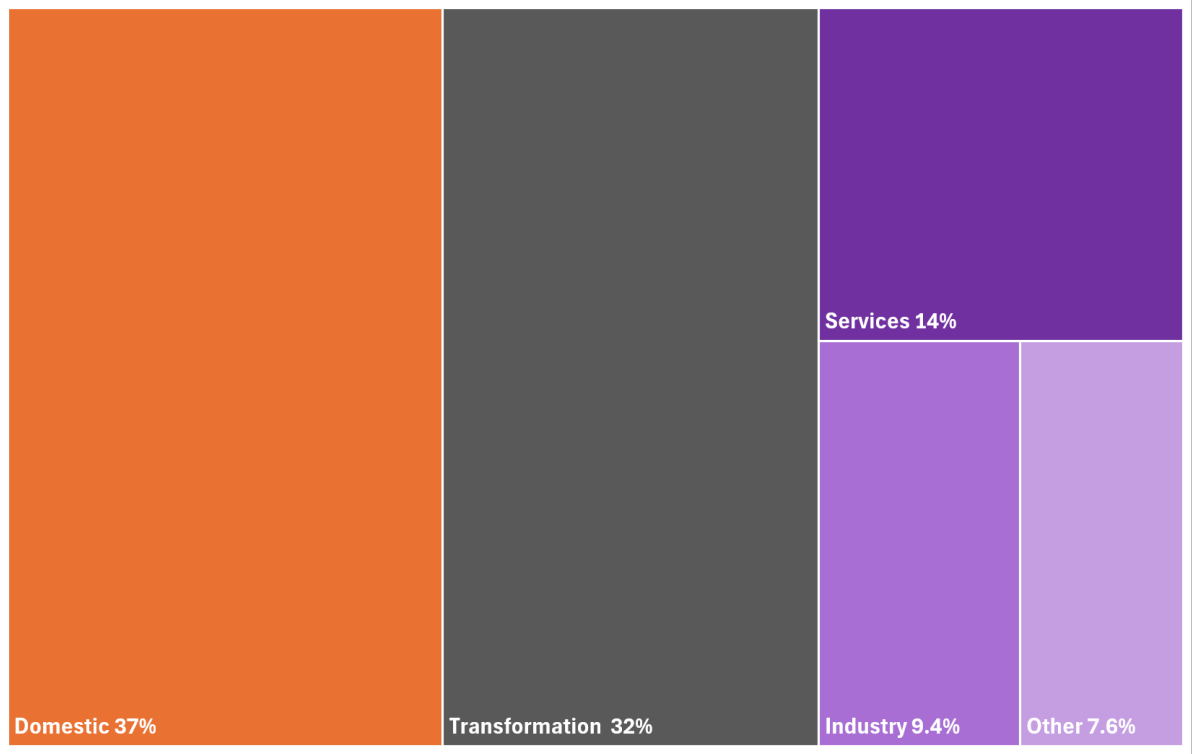


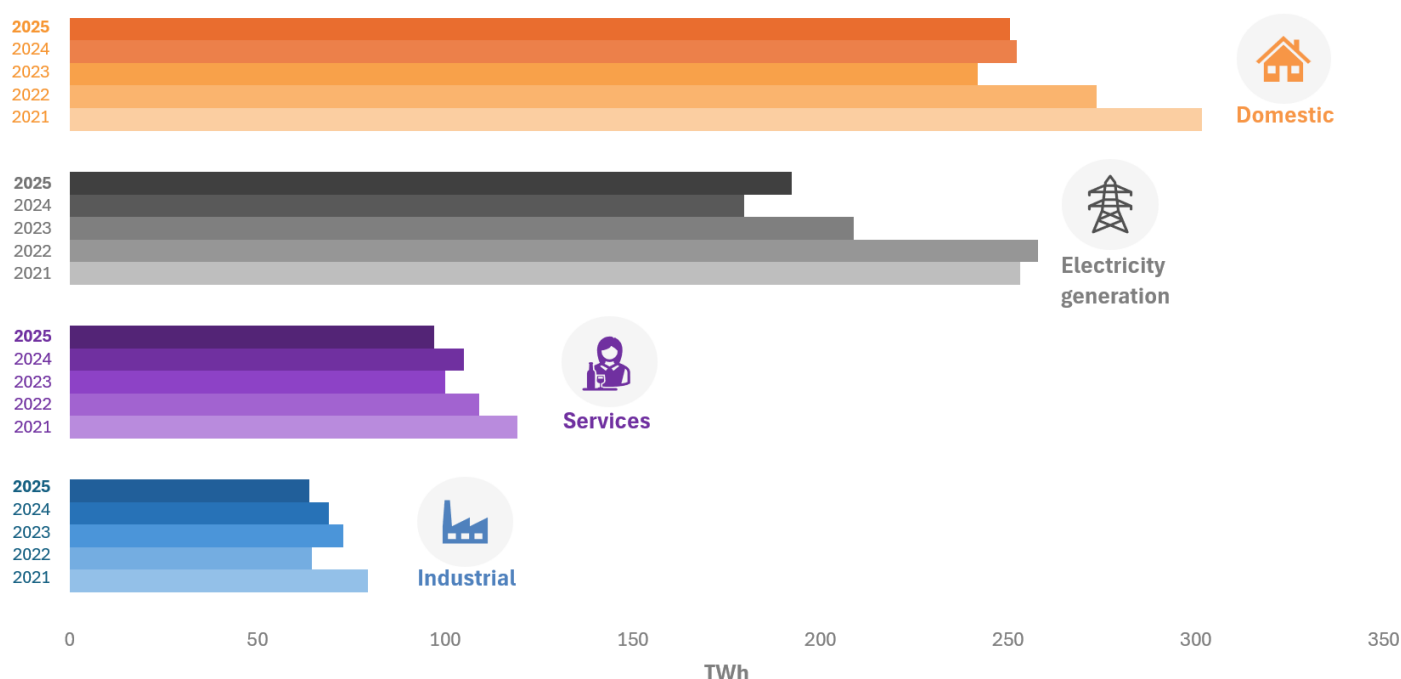
Chart 4.4 shows that, between 1998 and 2025, industrial gas consumption generally declined. The sharpest declines were earlier in the series, with consumption broadly stable between 2010 and 2018. From this point, consumption began declining again, with a steep fall in 2022 due to high prices. Services consumption was much more stable over the same period. However, within the services sector, diverging trends are seen in public administration and commercial consumption, the two main components of services, from the end of the previous decade. Gas consumption in the public administration sector has been declining due to increased electrification, while commercial consumption has generally increased. Broadly speaking, declining industrial demand and increasing commercial demand are consistent with wider structural changes in many European economies, including the UK, and provide useful context for the revisions seen within the industry and services subsectors.

Chart 4.5 Sectoral consumption of natural gas, 2025 ([DUKES Table 4.1](#))



In general, gas is used for transformation, domestic consumption, and by other sectors, including industry and services, each making up around a third of demand over the last decade. This was the case in 2025; domestic demand had the largest share at 37 per cent of demand, gas demand for transformation increased to 32 per cent from a low of 30 per cent in 2024, while demand by final consumers decreased.

Chart 4.6 Sectoral consumption of natural gas, 2021-2025 (DUKES Table 4.1)



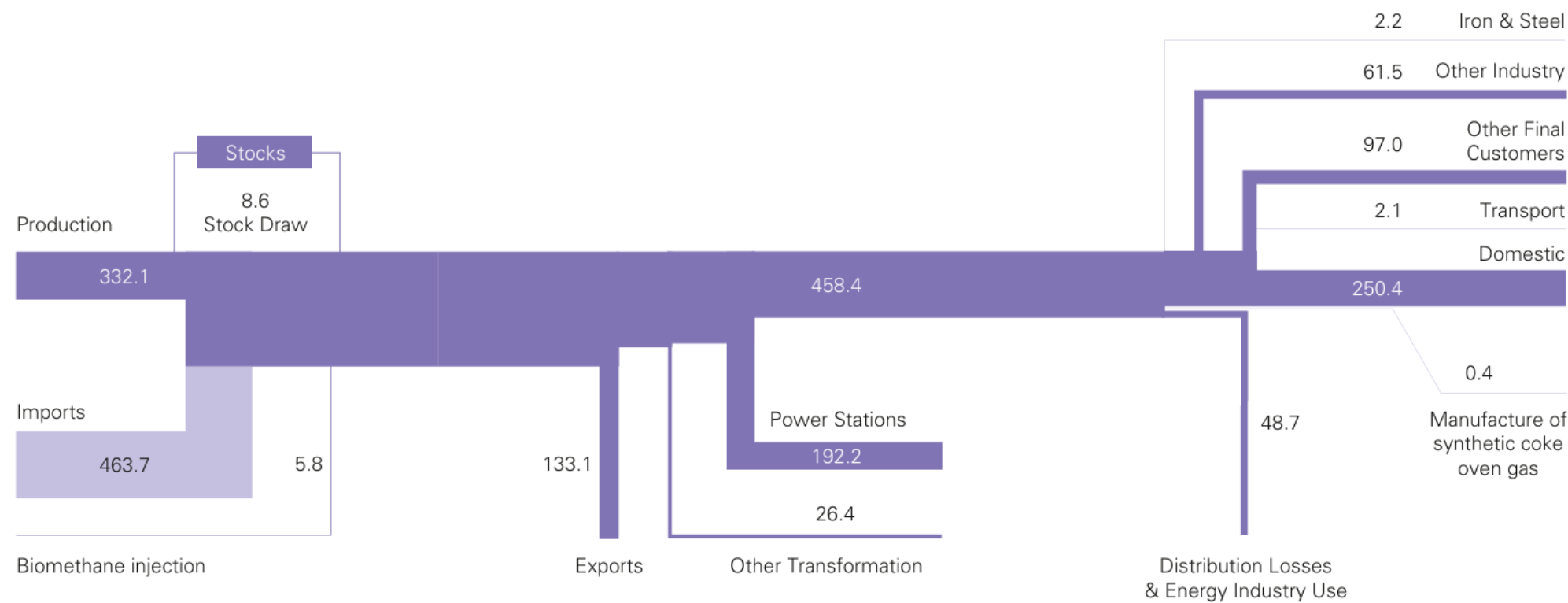
Natural gas demand was unchanged in 2025 compared to 2024, with increased demand for electricity generation offset by a decrease in final consumption. Demand for electricity generation increased by 7.0 per cent in 2025, up from a historic low in 2024, but remained low compared with recent levels. In contrast, demand by the industrial and services sectors fell by 7.8 and 7.6 per cent respectively. Within services demand by public administration and the commercial sector fell by 13 and 5.5 per cent respectively.

Demand for domestic (household) consumption was broadly stable, down by 0.8 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024. Domestic demand remains lower than historic averages, down 15 per cent on the 2017-2021 average, with demand continuing to be affected by warmer temperatures, and high energy and other prices following the Russia-Ukraine conflict from 2022.

Gas demand by the industrial sector fell by 7.8 per cent in 2025 reaching levels last seen in the 1970s. Industrial demand has generally been declining; despite recovering slightly following a sharper drop in 2022 due to high prices, demand remains in line with this overall trend. This decline is also seen in other fuels and across Europe, due to improvements in energy efficiency and the decline of traditional fuel-intensive sectors. The iron and steel sector saw a substantial drop of 41 per cent due to closures in late 2024.

Natural Gas Flow Chart 2025 (TWh)

The flow chart shows the flows of natural gas from production and imports through to consumption. It illustrates the flow of gas from the point at which it becomes available from indigenous production or imports (on the left) to the final use of gas (on the right), as well as that transformed into other forms of energy or exported. The widths of the bands are proportional to the size of the flow they represent.





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