



Guidance note on Quality Indicators of the 2007 local and regional gas and electricity consumption data

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# Guidance note on DECC<sup>1</sup> Quality Indicators of the 2007 local and regional gas and electricity consumption data

The quality indicators were first published in April 2006 and related to the 2004 local and regional data. They were compiled to help readers to interpret DECC's experimental estimates of local (NUTS4<sup>2</sup>) and regional (NUTS1) gas and electricity data. These datasets have been produced by DECC annually as part of the regional energy project since 2004, and the datasets relating to 2005 onwards have National Statistics status.

The 2007 Quality Indicators were published in March 2009, and are the first set of indicators published since regional datasets gained the National Statistics status. Indicators on industrial gas consumption are included in the 2007 dataset; this area was not previously covered in the quality indicators dataset.

These indicators should help user to:

- Understand the nature of the local and regional energy consumption data, including their robustness and highlight consistencies and problems.
- Interpret the data in their local context.

The 2004 and 2007 datasets, along with an expanded guidance note for the 2004 indicators, are available at the following link:

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/regional/quality/page36160.html>

## **Available Indicators**

There are 36 indicators in total, covering consumption in both domestic and industrial sectors, and examining the accuracy of allocating consumption estimates to local authorities using post code information.

### **Industrial Consumption:**

- Industrial and commercial electricity meters as a proportion of businesses on the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)
- Proportion of industrial and commercial electricity consumption from half hourly<sup>3</sup> meters
- Proportion of industrial and commercial electricity meters that are half hourly meters
- Industrial and commercial gas meters<sup>4</sup> as a proportion of businesses on the IDBR
- Percentage change in industrial and commercial electricity consumption between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in the number of industrial and commercial electricity meters between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in average industrial and commercial electricity consumption between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in industrial and commercial gas consumption between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in the number of industrial and commercial gas meters between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in average industrial and commercial gas consumption between 2006 and 2007

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008 and formed by Energy group from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Climate Change group from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Antecedently, work on energy policy was taken on by the newly formed BERR when the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) was disbanded in June 2007. Throughout this document DECC has been used to refer to both DECC and its former bodies, BERR and DTI.

<sup>2</sup> NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) is a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics which are comparable across the EU. NUTS1 refers to the 9 Government Office Regions in England, and separately Wales, Scotland, (and Northern Ireland), totalling 12 UK NUTS1 regions. NUTS4 refers to the 354 individual London boroughs/metropolitan districts/unitary authorities/local authority districts in England, the 22 individual unitary authorities in Wales, the 41 individual or groups of whole/part unitary authorities and/or local enterprise company areas in Scotland, (and the 26 individual district unitary authorities in Northern Ireland), totalling 443 UK NUTS4 regions.

<sup>3</sup> Half-hourly meters represent large industrial/commercial electricity users; and non-half hourly meters represent domestic and small/medium industrial/commercial electricity users.

<sup>4</sup> Customers with consumption greater than or equal to 73,200 kWh, this gas industry definition is known to exclude some small businesses and commercial users

### **Domestic consumption:**

- Domestic electricity meters as a proportion of households
- Domestic gas meters as a proportion of households
- Percentage of domestic electricity meters with consumption less than 1,340 kWh (the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the national domestic electricity consumption)
- Percentage of domestic electricity meters with consumption greater than or equal to 8,440 kWh (the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile)
- Percentage of domestic electricity meters with consumption between 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles
- Percentage of domestic electricity meters with consumption greater than or equal to 19,010 kWh (the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile)
- Percentage of domestic gas meters with consumption less than 6,500 kWh (the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the national domestic gas consumption)
- Percentage of domestic gas meters with consumption greater than or equal to 30,380 kWh (the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile)
- Percentage of domestic gas meters with consumption between 10<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles
- Percentage of domestic gas meters with consumption greater than or equal to 55,890 kWh (the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile)
- Percentage change in domestic electricity consumption between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in the number of domestic electricity meters between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in average domestic electricity consumption between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in domestic gas consumption between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in the number of domestic gas meters between 2006 and 2007
- Percentage change in average domestic gas consumption between 2006 and 2007

### **Validity of post code information:**

- Percentage of domestic electricity consumption allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of domestic electricity meters allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of non-half hourly industrial and commercial electricity consumption allocated by a full and valid post code
- Percentage of non-half hourly industrial and commercial meters allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of half hourly meters electricity consumption allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of half hourly electricity meters allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of domestic gas consumption allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of domestic gas meters allocated using a full and valid post code
- Percentage of industrial and commercial gas consumption allocated by a full and valid post code
- Percentage of industrial and commercial gas meters allocated by a full and valid post code

### **Definitions used in the data**

The calculations for the 10<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> percentiles for domestic gas include the “peak” values of 12,100, 13,420, 15,150, 20,600, and 22,500 kWh which were excluded when calculating the median values given in the December 2008 and March 2009 issues of Energy Trends. These values relate to the default values given by gas suppliers for meters in new properties.

Meters and their associated consumption are “allocated using a full and valid post code” if they were allocated to a Middle Layer Super Output Area<sup>5</sup> within a local authority. Where the post codes are not valid it is often possible to use other address information to allocate the meters and consumption to a local authority, but not to be any more specific in allocating them to a particular area within the local authority.

Where the cells in the “validity of post code information” section are blank, the data have been suppressed due to confidentiality issues.

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<sup>5</sup> Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MLSOAs) are a sub-local authority statistical geography developed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the 2001 census. On average, each MLSOA contains around 7,200 people or 3,000 households. Electricity and gas consumption data at MLSOA level are available at: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/regional/mlsoa-electricity-gas/page50221.html>