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Energy consumption increased by 6 % in 2021

Economic situation and weather conditions led to an increase in final energy consumption in Austria in the previous year

Vienna, 2022-11-11 – In 2021, final energy consumption in Austria rose by 6 % year-on-year to 1 123 petajoules (PJ), only around 1 % below the level of the pre-crisis year 2019, according to the latest energy balance from Statistics Austria.

“In 2021, the general economic recovery, higher mobility and colder weather brought final energy consumption in Austria back to almost the pre-crisis level of 2019, after a significant drop in energy consumption in the first Corona year 2020. In 2021, Austria produced about the same amount of primary fuels as in the year before, but fossil natural gas production decreased by 10 % to 24 PJ, while renewable energy production increased by 2 % to 450 PJ,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Consumption in industry increased by 5 %, private households consumed 10 % more energy

At the level of economic sectors, final energy consumption increased by about 5 % to 319 PJ in the manufacturing sector (industry) and by about 7 % to 109 PJ in the services sector, mainly as a result of the economic development. The resulting higher traffic volume led to an increase in energy consumption in road transport by 3 % to a total of 292 PJ. Energy consumption in air traffic increased by 25 % to 18 PJ in 2021. Consumption by private households rose by about 10 % to 321 PJ. Here, more energy was used primarily for heating purposes due to the colder weather: The 12 % higher heating degree days compared to the previous year resulted in a higher energy demand for heating purposes in 2021.

Renewable energy sources with a share of 17 % in final energy consumption

The increased energy use compared to the previous year is also reflected in the individual energy sources. For example, the use of hard coal and coke in blast furnaces of iron and steel production increased by 10 % to 58 PJ. The use of oil products increased in the transport sector due to the economic situation and as a heating energy source due to the weather. For example, the use of gasoil for heating purposes by private households rose by about 9 % to 42 PJ. In addition to the increased demand in private households as a heating energy source (+14 % to 68 PJ), natural gas was also increasingly used for the generation of process heat in industry (+3 % to 114 PJ). In the case of renewable energy sources, consumption rose by 10 % to 188 PJ compared to the previous year, in line with the development of the heating degree days. In this context, biogenic energy sources played a major role. For example, the use of firewood increased by 12 % to 64 PJ and the use of wood pellets by 19 % to 21 PJ.

Across all economic sectors, petroleum products accounted for the largest share of final energy consumption in 2021 with 35 %, followed by electrical energy (21 %), gas (18 %) and renewable energy sources (17 %).

Electricity production from hydropower decreased, photovoltaics continues to grow strongly

Domestic production of primary fuels was at about the same level as in the previous year. While the production of fossil natural gas declined by 10 % to 24 PJ, the production of renewable energy sources increased by 2 % to 450 PJ. The highest growth rates were recorded in biogenic fuels (+5 % to 187 PJ) and in the use of ambient heat by heat pumps (+9 % to 18 PJ) and photovoltaics (+36 % to 10 PJ).

The transformation output (production) of electrical energy decreased by 3 % to 241 PJ, whereby compared to the previous year, production by hydropower in particular decreased (-8 % to 140 PJ). The production

from wind power was about the same as in the previous year at around 24 PJ. The production as well as the final consumption of district heating showed an increase of about 9 % each to 92 PJ and 78 PJ, respectively, in line with the development of the heating degree days.

For detailed results and further information please refer to [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: The final energy balance for Austria is compiled on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), the energy balances for the federal provinces on behalf of the federal provinces. The energy balance enables a comprehensive comparison of the supply (e.g. from production and imports) and use of energy and relates to one calendar year. About 80 different energy sources (e.g. electricity, district heating) and groups of energy sources (e.g. renewables, gas) are considered. In addition, the energy consumption in the individual economic sectors is shown. Data from own surveys, from business statistics of Statistics Austria, but also various administrative data sources form the basis for the calculation of the energy balances.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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