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Energy consumption decreased by 5% in 2022

Consumption in industry increased by 1%, private households consumed 15% less energy than in 2021

Vienna, 2023-10-31 – In 2022, final energy consumption in Austria decreased by 5% year-on-year to 1 066 petajoules (PJ), and was thus around 1% above the level of the pandemic year 2020. This is the result of the latest energy balance of Statistics Austria.

“The warmer weather but also the massive increase in energy and fuel prices with the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022 caused energy consumption in Austria to fall in 2022 almost to the low level of the first pandemic year in 2020. Private households have reduced their energy consumption by 15%, mainly because they have heated significantly less than in the previous year, while consumption in industry has increased slightly by +1%,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Final energy consumption in industry increased by around 1% to 319 PJ, while services decreased by around 3% to 106 PJ. Energy use in road transport decreased by 5% to a total of 302 PJ, while energy use in aviation increased by 50% to 26 PJ. Consumption by private households fell by around 15% to 278 PJ, mainly due to the reduction in the use of heating energy sources.

Share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption at 17%

The lower energy consumption compared with the previous year is also reflected in the individual energy sources. For example, the use of hard coal and coke in the blast furnaces of iron and steel production decreased by 4% to 56 PJ. Consumption of oil products decreased due to lower use in the transport sector and reduced consumption as a heating fuel. For example, the use of gasoil for heating purposes by private households fell by around 14% to 35 PJ. The decrease is due both to the lower heating energy demand (heating degree totals 2022: –13%) and to the increased switch from fossil to renewable energy sources. In addition to the reduced demand in private households as a heating energy source (–18% to 55 PJ), natural gas was also used to a lesser extent in industry for the generation of process heat (–7% to 107 PJ). In the case of renewable energy sources, consumption fell by 7% year-on-year to 181 PJ, in line with the development of heating degree totals. The decline is particularly visible in the use of firewood (–20% to 54 PJ) and of wood pellets (–17% to 18 PJ).

Across all economic sectors, petroleum products accounted for the largest share of final energy consumption in 2022 at 36%, followed by electrical energy (22%), gas (17%) and renewables (17%).

Electricity production from hydropower decreased, photovoltaics continues to grow strongly

At 508 PJ, domestic production of raw energy in 2022 was around 4% lower than in the previous year. Production of the fossil fuels natural gas and crude oil declined by 6% and 8%, respectively, to 22 PJ each. Renewable energy production also declined by 4% to 435 PJ, partly due to lower heating energy demand as a result of warmer weather.

On the other hand, high growth rates were recorded in the use of ambient heat by heat pumps (+10% to 20 PJ) and electrical energy from photovoltaics (+36% to 14 PJ).

The production of electric energy decreased by 3% to 233 PJ, with a decrease in production from hydroelectric power in particular compared to the previous year (–10% to 125 PJ). On the other hand, wind power production increased by 7% to 26 PJ. Both production and final consumption of district heating showed a decline of around 11% to 82 PJ and 70 PJ, respectively, due to the warmer weather.

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.

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