

**Policy Background**

A European energy policy must pursue the objective of a sustainable, competitive and secure supply of energy. If the EU continues on its present course, this key objective will not be attained. In January 2007, the European Commission adopted an energy policy for Europe. This was supported by several documents on different aspects of energy and included an action plan to meet the major energy challenges Europe faces. Each European citizen must be informed of these challenges and the role they should play in meeting them.

A diversified mix of energies will increase security of supply.

**Key Issues**

The rapidly increasing consumption of energy in Ireland, combined with the decreasing domestic production, has resulted in a significant increase in energy imports in recent years. Ireland exhibits a significant dependence on oil (nearly 60% of primary energy supply). The UK is the major source of oil and natural gas for Ireland. Gas has become the most important fuel for electricity generation in Ireland, gradually replacing coal and oil. Significant amount of wind power capacity has been installed recently. However, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita are still above the EU-27 average, while energy intensity remains at low levels. The high dependence on oil and difficulties in meeting Kyoto emission reduction targets are important energy issues.

**Key Figures (2004)**

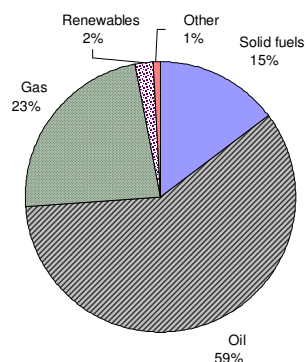
Mtoe	Primary Energy Supply	Domestic Production	Net Imports	Final Energy Consumption	Electricity Generation (TWh)
Solid fuels	2.3	0.9	1.8	0.5	7.7
Oil	9.3		8.8	7.5	3.2
Gas	3.6	0.7	3.0	1.3	12.9
Nuclear					
Electricity			0.1	2.0	
Renewables	0.3	0.3		0.2	1.4
Other	0.1				0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>25.6</b>

**Key Indicators (2004)**

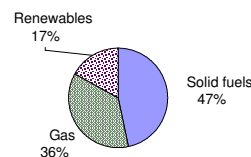
	IRELAND	EU-27
Energy per capita (kgoe/cap)	3 870	3 689
Energy intensity (toe/MEUR '00)	122	185
Energy import dependency %	86.5	50.1
CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (Mt)	43	4 004
CO <sub>2</sub> intensity (tCO <sub>2</sub> /toe)	2.7	2.2
CO <sub>2</sub> per capita (kg/cap)	10 589	8 180

The source for all data is the European Commission, unless otherwise stated

**2004 Primary Energy Supply**



**2004 Domestic Production**



**Primary Energy Supply**

Primary energy supply in Ireland has considerably increased in recent years (51% increase over the period 1990-2004). Oil is the most important fuel, accounting for 59% of primary energy supply (above the EU-27 average of 38%). The share of oil in total supply, as well as the share of natural gas, has almost doubled since 1990. In contrast, solid fuels consumption has been steadily declining. Renewable sources account only for 2% of primary energy supply, significantly below the EU-27 average (6%).

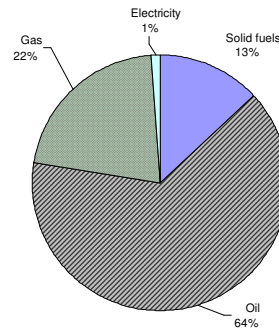
**Domestic Production**

Ireland produces a very small amount of energy, mainly solid fuels (peat) and natural gas. Production of both energy sources has been steadily decreasing, leading to a declining total domestic production. On the other hand, energy production based on renewable sources has significantly increased (by 94%) since 1990 leading to a share of domestic production higher than EU-27 average of 12%.

**Imports**

Ireland depends to a great extent on energy imports. The majority of imports concern oil- mainly from the UK and Norway. The UK is also the only source of natural gas for Ireland. Colombia and Australia are the main suppliers of hard coal. Increasing demand and decreasing domestic production have led to a total growth of energy imports by 93% over period 1990-2004.

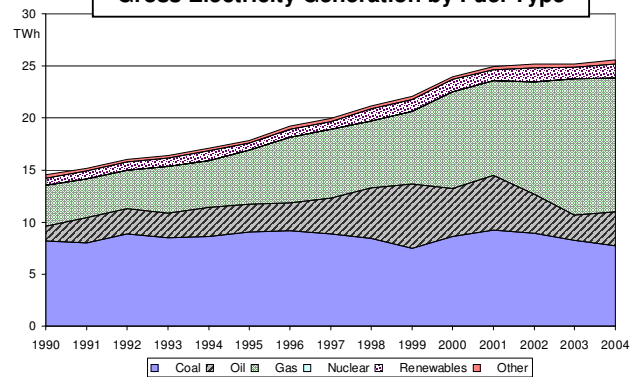
**2004 Net Imports by Energy Product**



**Electricity Generation**

Electricity generation increased significantly over the period 1990-2001, remaining fairly constant since then. While coal was the most important fuel for electricity until 1999, it has been gradually replaced by natural gas. In 2004, gas generated half of the electricity mainly replacing oil-fired generation. The share of renewable sources in electricity generation has been increasing in recent years, mainly due to new wind power capacity.

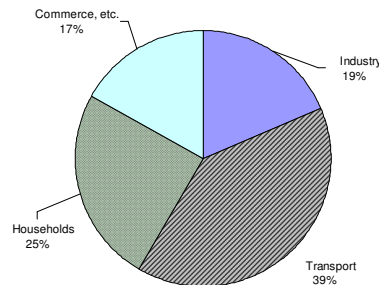
**Gross Electricity Generation by Fuel Type**



**Final Energy Consumption**

Transport is the single most energy-consuming sector in Ireland. Energy consumed by the transport sector has increased by 132% over period 1990-2004. Commerce also exhibited a significant increase in recent years which has led to a share above the EU-27 average of 15%. Industrial demand has been increasing although still holding a share below EU-27 average of 28%. Total final consumption of energy, consisting primarily of oil and secondarily of gas and electricity, has increased by 59% since 1990.

**2004 Final Energy Consumption by Sector**



**For further information**

If you want to find more data on Ireland or other Member State energy markets, go to [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy\\_transport/figures/pocketbook/2006\\_en.htm](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/figures/pocketbook/2006_en.htm)

Further fact sheets on Ireland and other Member States can be found on: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy\\_policy/facts\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/facts_en.htm)

**What is meant by.....?**

*Energy Import Dependency* shows the extent to which a country relies upon imports in order to meet its energy needs. It is calculated using the following formula: net imports / (primary energy supply + bunkers)

*Energy Intensity* gives an indication of the effectiveness with which energy is being used to produce added value. It is defined as the ratio of Primary Energy Supply to Gross Domestic Product

*Final Energy Consumption* is the energy finally consumed in the transport, industrial, commercial, agricultural, public and household sectors. It excludes deliveries to the energy transformation sector and to the energy industries themselves

*Primary Energy Supply*: The quantity of energy consumed within the borders of a country: primary production + recovered products + imports + stock changes - exports - bunkers (i.e. quantities supplied to sea-going ships)

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