



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

2024

Statistics

Pre-Release Materials for

Unit 2

Foundation and Higher

[GST21/GST22]

PRE-RELEASE MATERIALS

Guidance

All pre-release materials for Unit 2 Foundation and Higher [GST21/GST22] relate to the use of the statistical enquiry cycle.

The statistical enquiry cycle involves four components:

- formulating questions;
- collecting data;
- analysing data; and
- interpreting results.

You should familiarise yourself with the pre-release materials in advance of the examination.

The examination will include some questions that relate directly to or are inspired by the pre-release materials.

The pre-release materials are based on a theme.

Pre-release materials for the Summer 2024 series

The theme for the Summer 2024 series is “Energy in Northern Ireland”.

The pre-release materials for the Summer 2024 series are based on extracts from Chapter 3 of the Energy in Northern Ireland report for 2022, published by NISRA.

This report can be accessed at:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-northern-ireland-2022>

Introduction

The Energy in Northern Ireland report is published by NISRA statisticians within the Department for the Economy.

The report aims to provide an overview of key statistics and information relating to energy in Northern Ireland by presenting a wide range of information and statistics in a single coherent source.

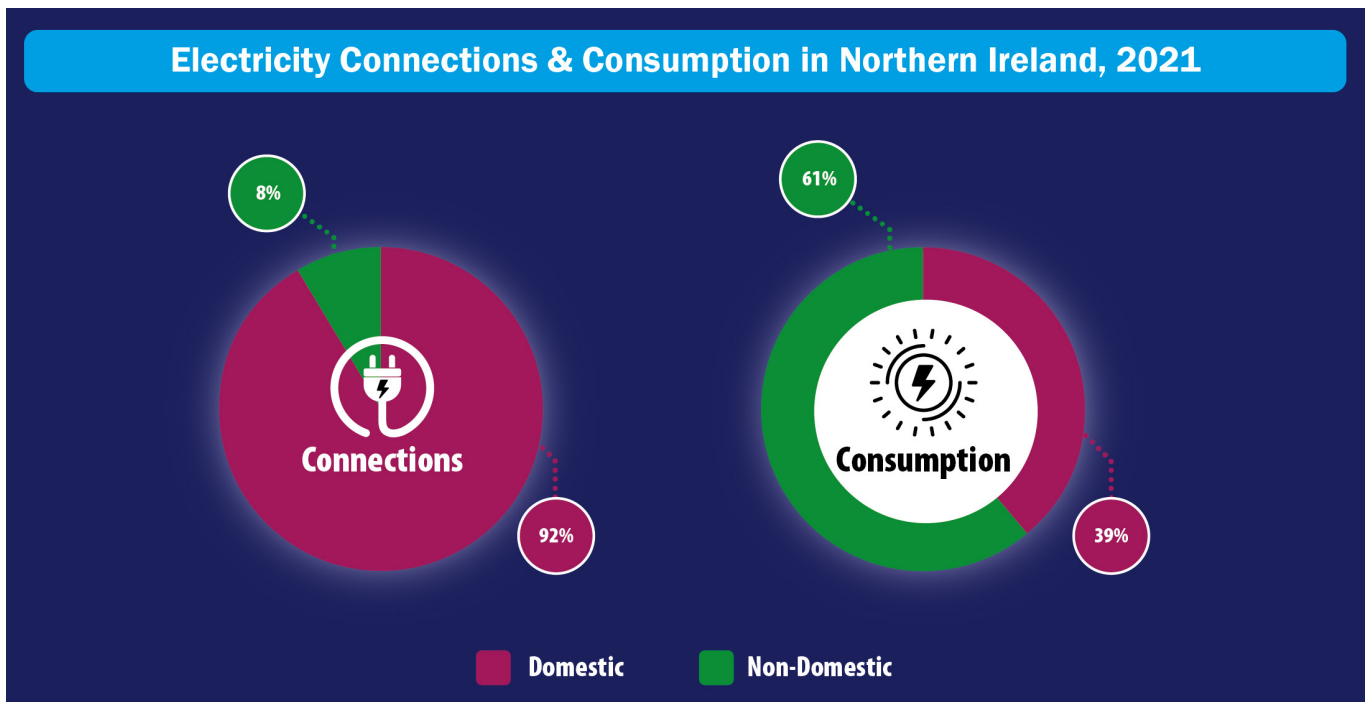
Summary of Key Points

As expected, electricity consumption peaks during the winter months and is at its lowest during the summer months. Monthly consumption in Northern Ireland peaked in December 2010 (at around 837 GWh) with the lowest level recorded in April 2020 at under 533 GWh (36% below peak monthly consumption and reflecting the impacts of Covid-19).

In general, there was a slight downward trend in annual electricity consumption in Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2015 followed by little change over the period 2015 to 2019. Consumption in 2020 then fell by 4% compared to 2019, largely due to falls in non-domestic consumption arising from the first lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. Total consumption in 2021 (7 574 GWh) was over 10% lower than in 2010.

Average annual domestic electricity consumption per meter ranged from 3 000 kWh in Belfast to 4 300 kWh in Mid Ulster District Council area in 2020 to 2021, meaning consumption per meter in this council area is around 40% higher than Belfast and some 16% above the Northern Ireland average.

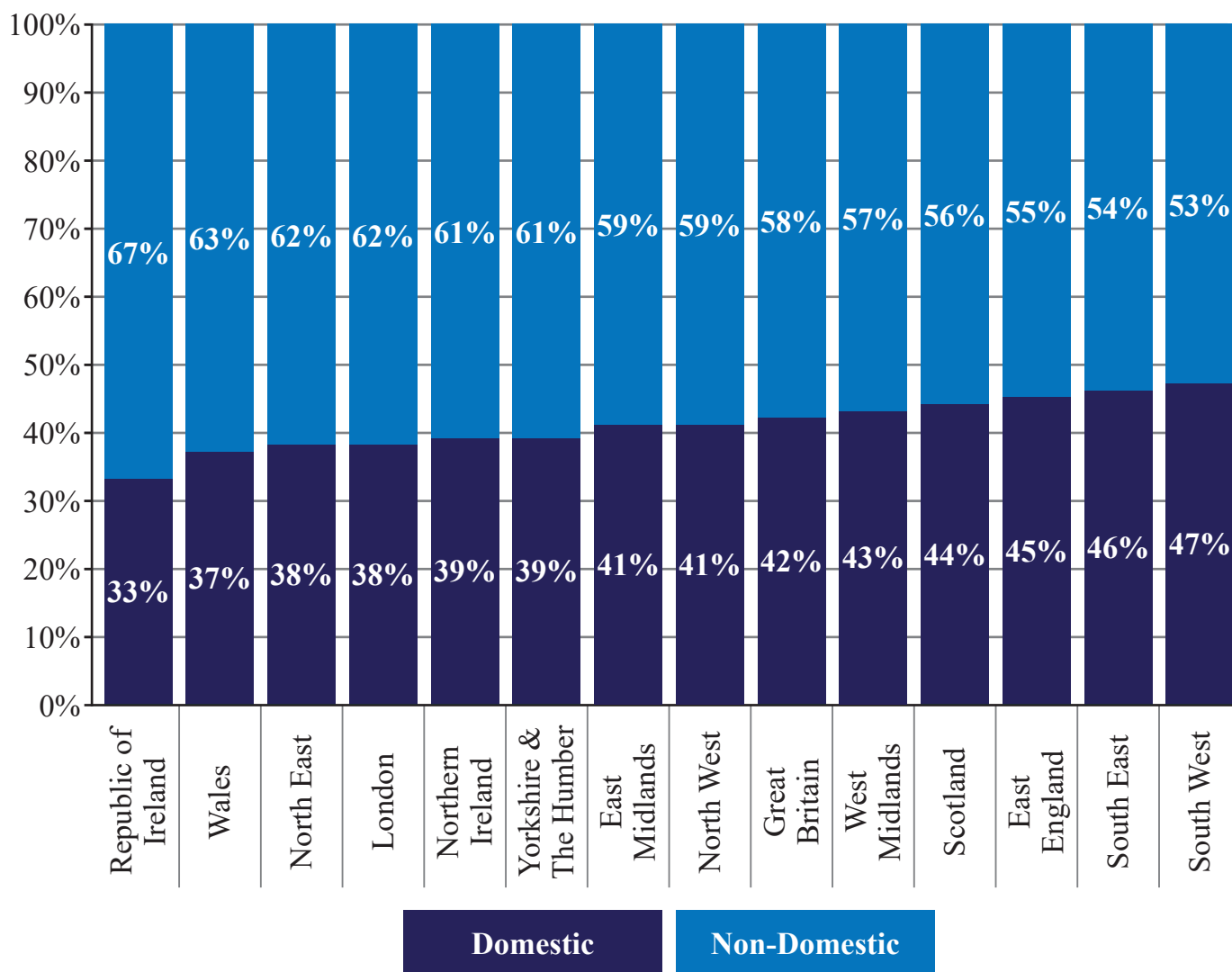
Whilst some 92% of all electricity connections were in domestic properties at the end of 2021, the domestic sector accounted for less than two-fifths (39.3%) of total electricity consumption in 2021. Large consumption by a relatively small number of consumers is illustrated by the fact that just over 1% of the largest consuming non-domestic electricity consumers accounted for over half (51%) of total electricity consumption in 2021.



Domestic/Non-Domestic Electricity Consumption

The compound percentage bar chart below shows the distribution of domestic electricity consumption and non-domestic electricity consumption by country and region for 2020.

Distribution of domestic/non-domestic electricity consumption by country and region, 2020



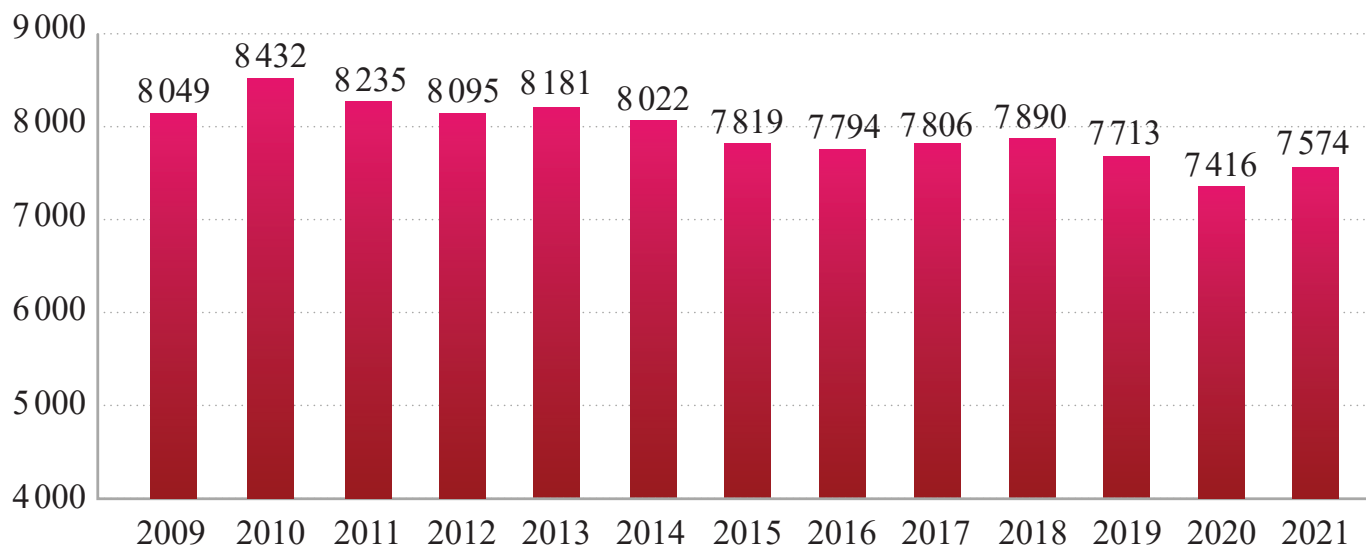
Source: BEIS; NIE Networks; Commission for Regulation of Utilities

The chart shows that the split between domestic and non-domestic electricity consumption for Great Britain as a whole was different to that for Northern Ireland in 2020, with a higher percentage of electricity in Great Britain consumed in the domestic sector (42%) and a lower percentage (58%) in the non-domestic sector (but a similar 92% of connections in the domestic sector and 8% in the non-domestic sector for Great Britain in 2020). However, as shown in the chart, the split varies across the regions of Great Britain. Domestic consumption accounted for 37% of total electricity consumption in Wales but was 47% in the South West region. Indeed, the variation is even more marked across Great Britain local authorities (equivalent to Northern Ireland council areas).

Annual Electricity Consumption

The chart below shows total annual electricity consumption for Northern Ireland for each year from 2009 to 2021.

Total annual electricity consumption in Northern Ireland (GWh), 2009 to 2021



Source: NIE Networks

Electricity consumption in 2021 was the second lowest in the 13 years shown. Over the 13-year period, consumption peaked in 2010; there was then a slight downwards trend over the period 2010 to 2015 followed by little change over the period 2015 to 2019. Consumption in 2020 then fell by 4% compared to 2019, largely due to falls in non-domestic consumption arising from the first lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, reflecting the impacts of Covid-19, the five lowest monthly electricity consumption volumes on record were recorded between April and August 2020. Annual consumption in 2021 was over 10% lower than the peak in 2010.

There are a number of factors which may have contributed to the reduction in consumption over the period 2010 to 2015, including: weather conditions, energy efficiency improvements (such as increased levels of insulation), the extension of the gas supply network, new boilers and more energy efficient appliances, increases in electricity prices, the consequences of the post-2008 recession, and household composition.

Sub-National Electricity Consumption

The table below shows data relating to domestic and non-domestic electricity consumption at district council level for Northern Ireland for the period 2020 to 2021.

Electricity consumption statistics at district council level, 2020 to 2021

Council name	Domestic			Non-domestic		
	Total consumption (GWh)	Total number of meters	Average consumption per meter (kWh)	Total consumption (GWh)	Total number of meters	Average consumption per meter (kWh)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	234	63 647	3 676	332	4 130	80 392
Ards & North Down	282	75 867	3 715	183	4 847	37 774
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	357	90 030	3 965	529	7 347	71 942
Belfast	505	165 019	3 061	827	13 681	60 482
Causeway Coast & Glens	255	67 723	3 758	226	5 630	40 215
Derry City & Strabane	231	65 108	3 550	406	5 373	75 496
Fermanagh & Omagh	194	49 995	3 877	321	5 077	63 258
Lisburn & Castlereagh	242	64 233	3 767	241	4 363	55 337
Mid & East Antrim	234	62 887	3 729	248	4 622	53 698
Mid Ulster	245	57 243	4 283	476	6 348	74 933
Newry, Mourne & Down	304	74 520	4 081	283	6 689	42 317
Unallocated	6	2 628	2 273	16	190	82 403
Northern Ireland	3 089	838 900	3 682	4 088	68 297	59 861

Source: BEIS (Sub-national electricity consumption statistics in Northern Ireland, gov.uk website)

Average domestic consumption per meter in Mid Ulster was higher than in Belfast and above the Northern Ireland average, whilst average domestic consumption in Belfast was below the Northern Ireland average. The lower average domestic consumption per meter in Belfast may be due to factors such as the better availability of mains gas in that council area, which may reduce the requirement for electricity for heating, etc. Predictably, given the concentration of domestic dwellings and businesses, Belfast had the largest share of both total domestic consumption and total non-domestic consumption. Belfast and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon together accounted for one-third of all total non-domestic electricity consumption in Northern Ireland in 2020 to 2021.

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