

Natural Gas in Estonia in 2007

The Estonian **natural gas network** enables to supply natural gas to the customers in most parts of the state's territory, where over 70% of the population is residing (i.e. all larger towns and industrial regions). The length of the D-category pipeline is 878.5 km and the length of the distribution pipeline is 1406.8 km as of the beginning of 2008. The Estonian natural gas grid is connected to the Russian and Latvian gas pipelines. Natural gas is imported via two modern well-equipped metering stations.

Natural gas formed 16% of the Estonian energy balance in 2007.

Natural gas consumption in Estonia exceeded the limit of 1 billion m³ in 2007 and together with own consumption amounted to 1009.5 million m³ (10 million m³ more than in 2006). Warmer weather patterns in the winter and autumn periods, compared to the previous year, had a negative impact on the natural gas consumption volumes. The number of natural gas consumers has grown in all network operator areas. 536 new customers joined our largest network, AS Eesti Gaas in 2007.

Heat production consumed the biggest share of natural gas – 37%, (1% less than in 2006), the share of the industries remained the same - 21%, power generation consumed 5.7% (2.3% less), households consumed 5.5% (0.5% more), the commercial sector used 4.5% (0.5% more) and the network operators' share was 6.4% (increase of 3.4%). The chemical plant AS Nitrofert consumed 207.5 million m³ of natural gas, forming 20.6% of the total Estonian consumption.

Natural gas consumption for power generation decreased considerably, but a new growth is expected again in 2008 and 2009 due to beneficial conditions set by the state for small heat and power cogeneration plants (up to 10 MW). As of 2008, the natural gas excise is imposed in Estonia, the only one of the three Baltic states. The construction of the Põltsamaa gas pipeline began in 2007 and it is to be completed in autumn 2008.

The Estonian Gas Association has 40 member companies as of 1 January 2008, whose activities are related to the importing, transportation, distribution and sale of natural gas; development of natural gas networks; sale of LPG; designing and construction of gas supply systems; importing, installation and maintenance of gas appliances and materials; also major gas consumers.

The Estonian Gas Association did a good job in developing international relations. EGA is a member of the world's most influential gas related associations: member of IGU since 1996, of the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) since 2006 and of the Estonian National Committee of the World Energy Committee (WEC). We participate in their events and various activities.

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