Gross inland consumption of natural gas rose again in 1999, by 6.3% to 364 million tonnes of oil equivalent (toe). There have been large increases in Portugal and Greece as a result of the recent introduction of natural gas into their energy system. The increases for the other Member States are as follows: Spain (+13.6%), Belgium (+10.9%), Germany (+8.9%), Denmark (+8.8%), Italy (+6.2%), United Kingdom (+6.0%), Ireland (+4.9%), Luxembourg (+4.0%), France and Austria (+2%), Finland (+1.3%) and Sweden (+0.1%). Consumption fell from its 1998 level in the Netherlands (-1.2%).

Structure of supply

The production of natural gas in the European Union rose by 2.3% compared with 1998 to reach 204.6 million toe. Of the main EU producers, the United Kingdom stepped up production by 9.8%, Germany by 6.8% and Denmark by 3.1%. In the Netherlands and Italy, on the other hand, production was down by 5.7% and 7.7% respectively.

The net imports of EU-15 rose by 15.6% in 1999 compared with 1998, to reach 163.2 million toe. In the same period the net imports of EUR-11 rose by 17.9% to reach 170 million toe.
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<th>EU-15</th>
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<th>B</th>
<th>DK</th>
<th>D</th>
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<sup>(1)</sup> 1+2  
<sup>(1)</sup> + Decrease in stocks  
- Increase in stocks  
<sup>(2)</sup> 1+2+4-5

Table 1: Provisional Balance-Sheet of Natural Gas (January-December 1999)  
in million tonnes of oil equivalent (GCV)
Figure 2: Primary production in million toe (GCV)

Figure 3: Total imports and exports in million toe (GCV)
(+ : imports; - : exports)

Figure 4: Gross Inland Consumption in the EU (Mio toe)
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