Bundesministerium für
Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft

Progress report 2016

in accordance with Article 24(1) of Directive 2012/27/EU

Contents

By submitting this progress report, the Republic of Austria is fulfilling its reporting duty under Article 24(1) of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), which requires Member States to report on the progress achieved towards national energy efficiency targets by 30 April each year.

Annex XIV Part 1 of the EED stipulates that the report must contain the following minimum information:

- indicators (for this purpose, the Commission asked Member States to fill in the template supplied on 21 January 2016, see Annex);
- where energy consumption remains stable or is growing in a given sector, reasons for this;
- major legislative and non-legislative measures implemented in the previous year;
- energy savings in public buildings pursuant to Article 5(6);
- energy savings pursuant to Article 7(1) (energy efficiency obligation scheme) and Article 7(9) (alternative measures);

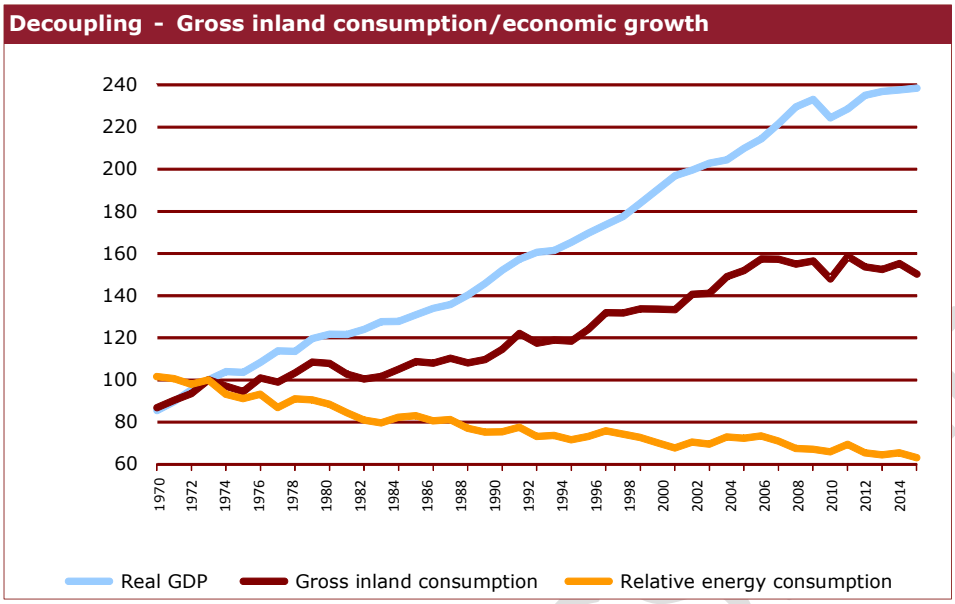
This report contains a short overview of energy efficiency developments in Austria, the information required by Annex XIV Part 1 and the completed template.

1. An overview of energy efficiency developments in Austria

Due to the focus adopted early for Austrian energy policy, it has been possible since the first oil shock in the 1970s to significantly improve energy efficiency and decouple the trend in energy consumption from economic developments.

The long-term outlook therefore reveals that although Austria's real GDP increased by 138.5 % between 1973 and 2014, gross inland consumption in 2014 increased by a comparatively small amount, i.e. 50.3 % over the 1973 level. This means that the energy intensity or relative energy consumption (i.e. the amount of total energy required to produce a GDP unit) has fallen by 37 %, i.e. well in excess of one-third.

Chart: Decoupling – Gross inland consumption/economic growth 1970 - 2014

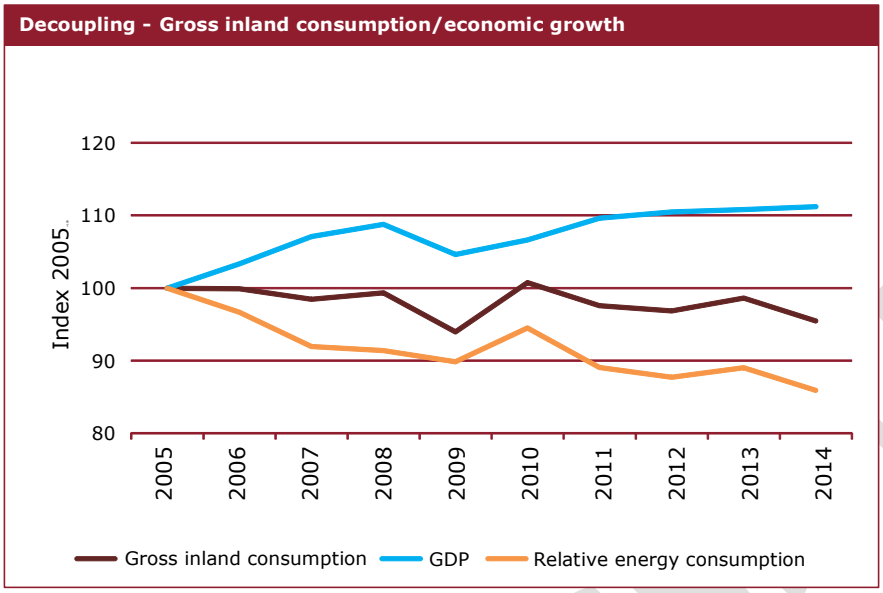


During the 1990s, however, this decoupling slowed somewhat, not least because of the existing high standards, coming to a standstill at the beginning of the 2000s. Between 2000 and 2005 there was even a slight increase in relative energy consumption.

Over the last decade, however, the decoupling trend has resumed to a sizeable extent.

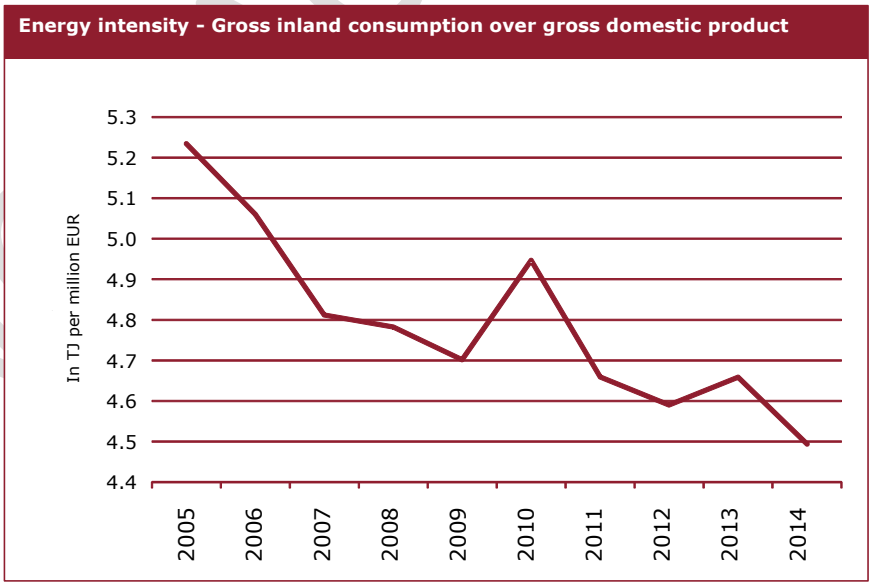
If the progression in decoupling since 2005 is considered, a positive trend can be very clearly seen. Although real gross domestic product increased by 11.2 % in Austria between 2005 and 2014, a downward trend was observed in gross inland consumption over the same period, which in 2014 was 4.5 % below the level from 2005. Consequently, energy intensity only fell by 14.1 % over that period, i.e. by an average of 1.7 % per year. This trend shows that Austria has been able to decouple energy consumption from economic growth by implementing the EED, the Ecodesign and the Directive on the energy performance of buildings and has thereby used resources more sparingly for future generations. Austria will continue to push forward with such efforts, in particular through its implementation of the Energy Efficiency Act.

Chart: Decoupling – Gross inland consumption/economic growth 2005 - 2014



A closer look at the trend in energy intensity over the period 2005 to 2014 is provided by the following chart.

Chart: Energy intensity - Gross inland consumption over gross domestic product

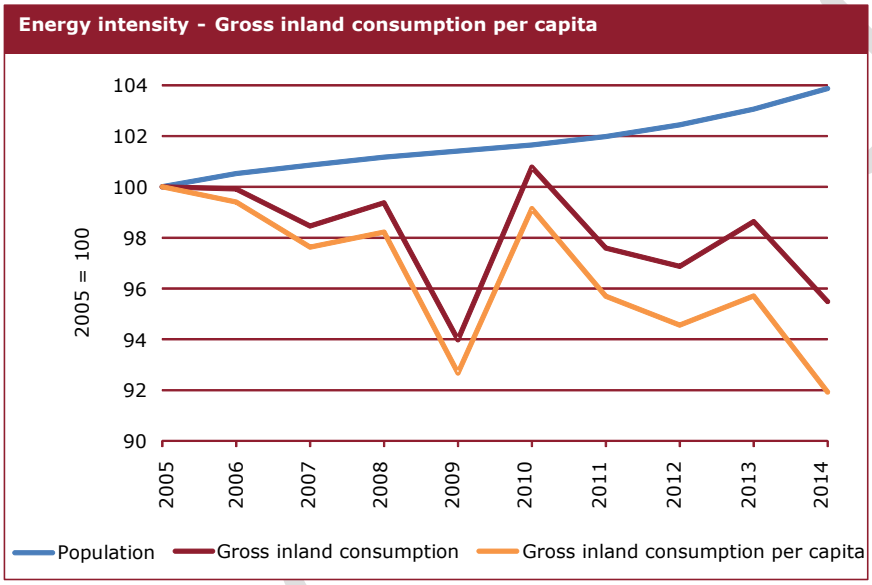


The fluctuations in the above chart further illustrate that changes in energy intensity – alongside other factors such as economic growth – are also influenced

by weather conditions.

If gross inland consumption is considered alongside the population of Austria, it can be seen that over the period 2005 to 2014, the population grew at a constant rate and by approximately 4 % overall, whilst gross inland consumption fell by around the same amount. Between 2005 and 2014, this therefore resulted in a decline in energy consumption per inhabitant by approximately 8 %.

Chart: Energy intensity - Gross inland consumption per capita



2. Statistical indicators (2014 data)

Enclosed is the template provided by the European Commission to be filled out. The figures provided are based on EUROSTAT data and data from the national statistics office (Statistics Austria).

The difference between national data and EUROSTAT data in terms of final energy consumption totals 1 204.6 ktoe or 5.2 % and is mainly due to the different classification for the use of energy sources in iron and steel production for non-energy consumption.

As with the previous progress report, a brief summary of the indicators based on national data for 2014 is provided below:

Table: Indicators 2014 Source: Statistics Austria

Indicators 2014				
i)	Primary energy consumption (other than non-energy consumption)		30.95	Mtoe
ii)	Total final energy consumption		25 394	ktoe
iii)	**Final energy consumption by sector**			
	Households		5 673	ktoe
	Services		2 893	ktoe
	Industry		7 535	ktoe
	Agriculture		538	ktoe
	Transport (including pipeline transport)		8 754	ktoe
iv)	**Gross value added by sector, nominal**			
	Services		174 963	Million EUR
	Industry		72 681	Million EUR
v)	Disposable income of households		190 701	Million EUR
vi)	Gross domestic product		281 269	Million EUR
	Conversion efficiency			
vii)	Electricity generation from thermal power generation		1 372	ktoe
viii)	Electricity generation from combined heat and power plants		731	ktoe
ix)	Heat generation from thermal power generation		1 907	ktoe
x)	Heat generation from combined heat and power plants		1 050	ktoe
xi)	Fuel input for thermal power generation		5 163	ktoe
	Fuel input for combined heat and power plants		2 262	ktoe
	Fuel input for heat generation		1 001	ktoe
	Energy transmission losses		468	ktoe
xii)	Passenger transport		12 092	Million pkm
xiii)	Freight transport		39 276	Million tkm
xv)	Population		8 543 932	-
	Total number of households (primary residences)		3 768 915	-

3. Updates to measures

Energy Efficiency Guidelines Regulation (*Energieeffizienz-Richtlinienverordnung*)

On 1 January 2016, the Guidelines Regulation on the activities of the energy efficiency monitoring body entered into force. In addition to specifying the duties of the national energy efficiency monitoring body, the Regulation also sets out over 100 possible methods for assessing energy efficiency measures. The Guidelines Regulation lays down the provisions which the national energy efficiency monitoring body must comply with for the purposes of enforcing the Federal Energy Efficiency Act (*Energieeffizienzgesetz, EEffG*) as regards documenting, reporting, assessing and classifying energy efficiency measures.

Tax reform – encouraging alternative mobility technology

As part of the tax reform, support was provided for distinguishing company car tax on an ecological basis in order to encourage alternative mobility technology further. It was decided as part of the most recent tax reform that the requirement for benefits in kind to be recognised for private use of zero-CO_2 company cars would be abolished from 1 January 2016. It would also be possible to deduct input VAT on zero-CO_2 passenger cars and estate cars.

Creation of a housing investment bank (*Wohnbauinvestitionsbank, WBIB*)

The Federal Act establishing a housing investment bank (WBIB-G) and amending the Federal Act on special tax measures for supporting housing construction and the Act on non-profit housing, entered into force on 1 January 2016.

Commercial and non-profit building contractors will be able to obtain long-term, low-cost loans from the housing investment bank (WBIB) set up under the Act, in order to finance affordable housing. Funds are awarded by the WBIB at market conditions to non-profit and commercial building contractors for housing construction. Funds may be used to build property to buy and to let. The focus is on constructing new housing. However, new apartments may also be created by restructuring buildings.

4. Energy savings pursuant to Article 5

An assessment of Federal buildings and associated final energy savings showed that Federal buildings will be able to meet the 48.2 GWh savings objective laid down in Article 5 between 2014 and 2020.

The measures for achieving the necessary savings affect in particular the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport, the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management, which possess and make use of the largest number of Federal-owned buildings. The 2014-15 sub-targets were met largely due to energy contracting projects initiated promptly.

Consequently, the following savings were achieved for those years (in GWh):

Table: Savings pursuant to Article 5 in 2014 and 2015 (in GWh)

Article 5 savings [GWh]		
	2014.	**2015.**
Reorganisation measures	-	0.425
Energy contracting	3.496	4.337
Energy management	0.522	0.211
Area downsizing	-	1.345
Total	**4.018**	**6.318**

Details concerning the measures and calculations carried out are contained in the Action Plan for the Implementation of Section 16 of the Energy Efficiency Act which will be submitted shortly.

5. Energy savings pursuant to Article 7

Austria is continuing to pursue the plan already notified to the European Commission in the 2013 Article 7 notification (BMWFJ, 2013) for introducing alternative policy measures to achieve the saving target pursuant to Article 7 of the EED. This means that for the purposes of implementing Article 7, Austria has opted for a system in accordance with Article 7(9), implementing both policy measures and obligation schemes.

Total annual savings of **29 898 TJ** from the energy efficiency obligation scheme and **2014** policy measures can be reported:

- 2 585 TJ: Energy efficiency obligation scheme for energy suppliers
- 1 940 TJ: Provincial support for housing construction, energy support and environmental support, and private sector renovation vouchers
- 1 469 TJ: Domestic Environmental Support (*Umweltförderung im Inland, UFI*)
- 33 TJ: Federal support for sustainable electricity
- 22 780 TJ: Energy taxation
- 490 TJ: Motorway tolls for HGVs
- 304 TJ: Renovation initiative – operational element
- 26 TJ: *klimaaktiv mobil* climate initiative
- 271 TJ: Climate and Energy Fund

The savings calculated for 2014 are based on the measure notifications submitted by energy suppliers and public support bodies under an obligation to do so. The final energy savings achieved through energy taxation and the HGV toll in 2014 were calculated by the Austrian Institute for Economic Research according to the provisions under Article 7 of and Annex V to the EED. The final energy savings from all other measures were calculated using the method set out in the Guidelines Regulation pursuant to Section 27 of the Energy Efficiency Act.

Enclosures: European Commission template for reporting indicators
(see Excel file attached)

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