Natural gas transmission, storage and distribution, January 2016

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Natural gas utilities received 533.8 million gigajoules of natural gas from fields, gas-gathering systems and gas plants in January.

(The monthly release on natural gas has been redesigned. For more information, see note to readers.)

Gas utilities delivered 204.8 million gigajoules of natural gas to industrial consumers, 111.4 million gigajoules to residential consumers and 79.4 million gigajoules to commercial and institutional consumers.

Opening and closing inventories

In January, opening inventories of natural gas stored in Canadian facilities totalled 898.1 million gigajoules, while inventories closed at 787.0 million gigajoules, down 12.4% over the month. (See note to readers for more information on inventories.)

Natural gas stored in Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan combined) decreased 8.2% in January, closing at 524.7 million gigajoules. Inventories in Central Canada (Ontario and Quebec combined) declined 19.8% and closed at 262.2 million gigajoules.

Provincial deliveries

Natural gas deliveries in Alberta totalled 159.2 million gigajoules in January. The industrial sector represented 73.4% of provincial deliveries.

In Ontario, deliveries of natural gas totalled 134.4 million gigajoules in January. The residential sector (31.4%) accounted for the largest share of deliveries in the province.

Imports and exports

Canada imported 66.4 million gigajoules of natural gas by pipeline from the United States in January. Exports of natural gas to the United States by pipeline totalled 291.1 million gigajoules.

Note to readers

Content and methodology changes were made to the Monthly Natural Gas Transmission and Monthly Natural Gas Distribution surveys to provide readers with more detailed industry data. In addition, the Monthly Natural Gas Storage survey was developed and implemented to capture information on gas storage characteristics related to inventories and flows.

Data in this monthly release are now expressed in gigajoules, while data in CANSIM are available in both gigajoules and cubic metres.

The changes to the surveys were implemented as part of Statistics Canada's Integrated Business Statistics Program. For more information, please consult the methodology documents on storage, transmission and distribution.

Data on natural gas storage, transmission and distribution previously found in CANSIM tables 129-0001, 129-0002, 129-0003 and 129-0004 will be published in separate tables. Storage data will be published in CANSIM table 129-0005, transmission data will be published in CANSIM table 129-0006, and distribution data will be published in CANSIM table 129-0007.

As a result of these changes, data in the new CANSIM tables will not be comparable with data from the previous tables. However, previous tables will remain available for reference purposes.

Definitions

*Data on **natural gas** no longer correspond to marketable natural gas, but represent natural gas from fields, gas-gathering systems and gas plants.*

***Natural gas deliveries** (in previous releases termed "sales") include deliveries to industrial, commercial and institutional, and residential consumers.*

***Opening inventories** correspond to inventories as of the first day of the reference month, while **closing inventories** correspond to inventories as of the last day of the reference month. For example, the reference period for the opening inventory in January was January 1, while the reference period for the closing inventory was January 31.*

Available in CANSIM: tables 129-0005 to 129-0007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 2149, 5210 and 5215.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca**).