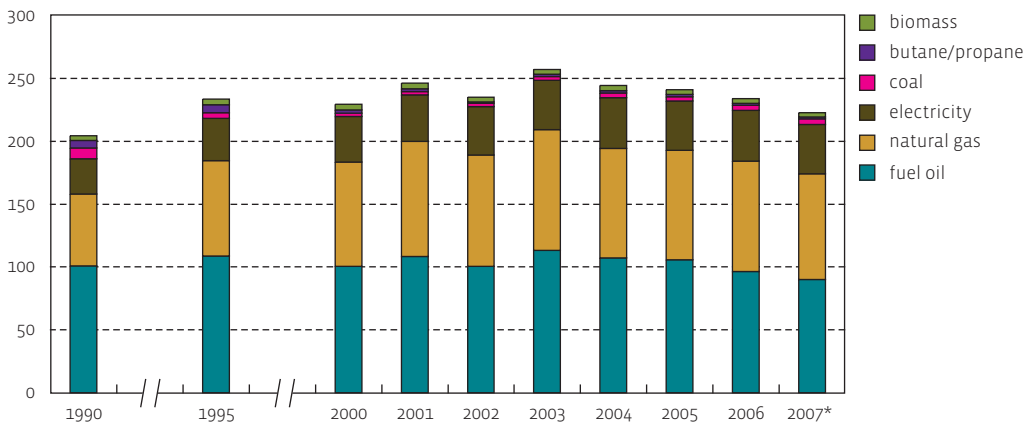


energy consumption (PJ)



* provisional figures

Source: MIRA based on Flanders Energy Balance VITO

Energy consumption for heating decreasing due to milder winters

The most important reasons for energy consumption by households are the heating, cooling and ventilation of buildings, production of warm water, lighting, and the use of electrical appliances. The share of households in the total energy consumption in Flanders was 13.8 % in 2007.

The total energy consumption by households has increased from 204.4 PJ in 1990 to 222.8 PJ in 2007 (+9.0 %). However, since 2003 we can see that domestic energy consumption has been falling. Because the households mainly use fuels such as heating oil, natural gas, coal and wood for heating rooms, the use of these energy sources fluctuates strongly according to the average outside temperatures. Between 2003 and 2007 the winters were steadily milder, and the heating demand on the basis of the outside climate decreased by 18 %; in contrast, energy consumption decreased by only 13 %.

Domestic consumption of electricity has risen

Electricity, which households only use to a limited extent for space heating, experienced an almost uninterrupted increase (+44.8 %) in the period 1990-2004, after which the consumption has stabilised. In that same period the share of electricity in the total energy consumption of the households increased from 13.6 % to 17.7 %. Causes of this are the rising number of appliances, the longer utilisation period of those appliances (e.g. we watch more TV), and the introduction of new appliances. These developments completely undo the energy savings that result from the greater efficiency of the appliances.

energy consumption (PJ)	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
fuel oil	100.9	108.8	100.3	113.4	107.1	105.6	96.4	89.9
natural gas	57.4	75.6	83.1	95.9	87.0	87.0	87.9	84.1
electricity	27.9	33.6	36.1	39.2	40.3	39.2	40.1	39.5
coal	8.5	4.7	2.6	3.0	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.3
butane/propane	6.0	6.3	2.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.7
biomass	3.8	4.3	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.3
total	204.4	233.4	229.4	257.1	244.2	241.1	233.9	222.8