

Early estimates of CO₂ emissions from energy use

In 2012, CO₂ emissions in the EU27 are expected to have decreased by 2.1% compared with 2011

Eurostat estimates that in 2012 carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion decreased by 2.1% in the **EU27**, compared with the previous year¹, after a fall of 4.1% in 2011. CO₂ emissions are a major contributor to global warming and account for around 80% of all EU greenhouse gas emissions. They are influenced by factors such as climate conditions, economic growth, size of the population, transport and industrial activities², while various EU energy efficiency initiatives aim to reduce emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.

Today, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes for the first time early estimates of CO₂ emissions from energy use for 2012. These early estimates are released only five months after the end of the reference year by using monthly energy statistics³.

CO₂ emissions fell in twenty-three Member States in 2012

In 2012, the Member State with the highest level of CO₂ emissions in absolute terms was **Germany** (728 million tons), followed by the **United Kingdom** (472 mn tons), **Italy** (366 mn tons), **France** (332 mn tons), **Poland** (297 mn tons) and **Spain** (258 mn tons). These six Member States accounted together for more than 70% of total **EU27** CO₂ emissions in 2012.

Eurostat estimates that from 2011 to 2012 CO₂ emissions decreased in nearly all Member States, except **Malta** (+6.3%), the **United Kingdom** (+3.9%), **Lithuania** (+1.7%) and **Germany** (+0.9%). The largest decreases were recorded in **Belgium** and **Finland** (both -11.8%), **Sweden** (-10.1%), **Denmark** (-9.4%), **Cyprus** (-8.5%), **Bulgaria** (-6.9%), **Slovakia** (-6.5%), the **Czech Republic** (-5.2%), **Italy** and **Poland** (both -5.1%).

CO₂ emissions from energy use

	in 1000 tons CO ₂		Change 2012/2011	
	2011*	2012 estimate	in absolute terms (1000 tons CO ₂)	in %
EU27	3 489 868	3 417 382	-72 486	-2.1
Belgium	97 472	85 939	-11 533	-11.8
Bulgaria	51 410	47 881	-3 529	-6.9
Czech Republic	105 131	99 646	-5 485	-5.2
Denmark	42 961	38 908	-4 053	-9.4
Germany	721 656	728 065	6 409	0.9
Estonia	18 688	18 590	-99	-0.5
Ireland**	36 605	36 132	-473	-1.3
Greece	90 358	90 189	-170	-0.2
Spain	261 523	257 760	-3 764	-1.4
France	335 009	332 295	-2 714	-0.8
Italy	385 365	365 688	-19 676	-5.1
Cyprus	6 919	6 332	-587	-8.5
Latvia	6 563	6 376	-187	-2.8
Lithuania	11 387	11 577	190	1.7
Luxembourg	10 452	10 272	-180	-1.7
Hungary	44 880	43 175	-1 705	-3.8
Malta**	2 558	2 720	162	6.3
Netherlands	162 796	157 115	-5 680	-3.5
Austria	64 338	61 354	-2 984	-4.6
Poland	312 645	296 817	-15 828	-5.1
Portugal	46 217	44 388	-1 830	-4.0
Romania	78 506	74 954	-3 552	-4.5
Slovenia	15 365	14 979	-386	-2.5
Slovakia	32 897	30 758	-2 140	-6.5
Finland	53 248	46 970	-6 278	-11.8
Sweden	41 134	36 974	-4 160	-10.1
United Kingdom	453 785	471 530	17 745	3.9

* Official 2011 data as reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

** Include some Eurostat estimates

1. See also the press release published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) on 29 May 2013 on EU Greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2011: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-union-greenhouse-gas-inventory-2013>. The European Union reports greenhouse gas emission inventories annually (Decision 280/2004/EC). They are compiled by the EEA based on national greenhouse gas emission inventories with the assistance of Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre.
2. For further information see the Statistics explained article on the Eurostat website: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Climate_change_-_driving_forces
3. More information about the method used to calculate early CO₂ emission estimates can be found on the Eurostat website: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/energy/documents/MethodCO2.pdf>
As regards the reliability of the early estimates, comparison of 2011 estimates with final figures showed that EU27 CO₂ emissions were overestimated by 1.2%. However estimates differed for some Member States by larger amounts.

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