

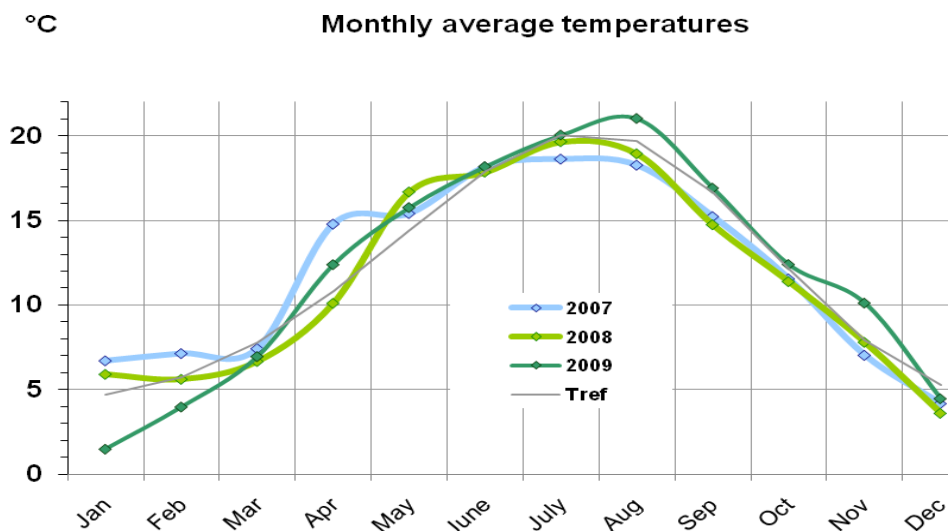
Natural gas consumption within GRTgaz's balancing zones Year 2009

1. GROSS CONSUMPTION ⁽¹⁾

The average temperatures recorded in year 2009 show contrasting periods:

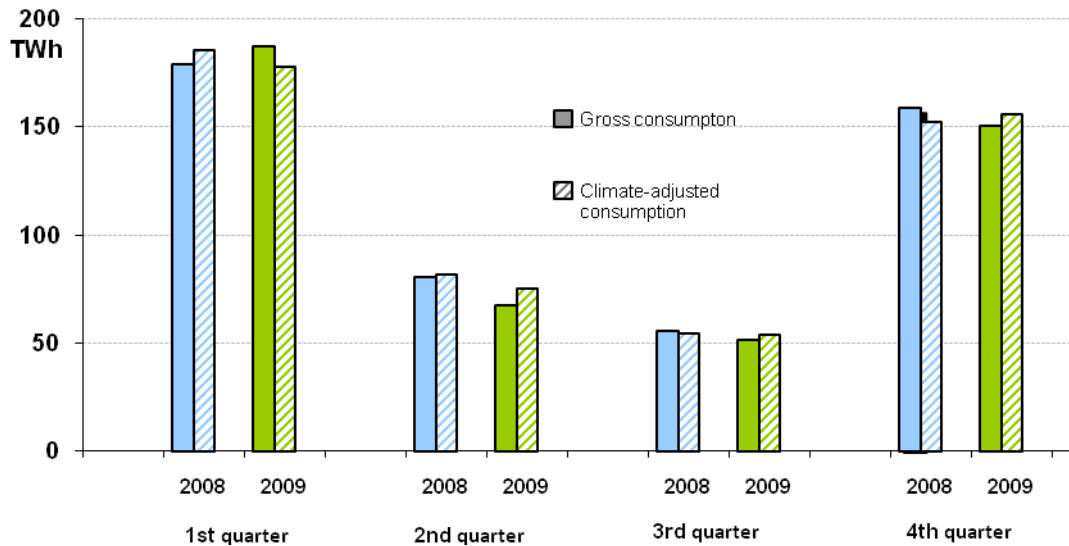
- The 1st quarter of 2009 was cold compared with the same period of 2008 (-1.9°C on average), especially in January and February;
- as for the 2nd quarter of 2009, spring was fairly mild and warmer on average than spring 2008;
- the last half of 2009 was altogether warm, especially in August, at the end of October and in November, due to the delayed arrival of winter.

All in all, the year 2009 was a warm year, like 2007 (12.0°C in 2009 vs. 11.6°C in 2008 and 12.1°C in 2007). Natural gas consumption is very temperature-sensitive, especially over the so-called gas winter period (from November 1 to March 31). Periods of mild temperatures have led to a fall in natural gas consumption in spring and at the end of autumn.



¹ The values shown do not include the quantities of natural gas used by GRTgaz for its own needs, in particular to operate its compressor stations.

Gross and climate-adjusted consumption within GRTgaz's zone



Gross consumption of natural gas in GRTgaz's balancing zones in 2009 ⁽²⁾ (456.8 TWh) was down 3.7% on 2008 (474.1 TWh).

During the 1st quarter of 2009, due to cold winter temperatures (average temperature for the quarter: 4.2°C in 2009 vs. 6.1°C in 2008 and 7.1°C in 2007), gross consumption was significant, i.e. higher by +4,6% than in the same period of 2008 (187.4 TWh in 2009 vs. 179.1 TWh in 2008 and 167.0 TWh in 2007); over the period under consideration, consumption by direct customers dropped as a result of the economic crisis that began at the end of 2008 (47.2 TWh for the 1st quarter of 2009 compared with 50,58 TWh in 2008 and 47.5 TWh in 2007).

During the 2nd quarter of 2009, consumption decreased (67.6 TWh in 2009 vs. 80.7 in 2008 and 67.9 in 2007), firstly because of a milder average temperature compared with the same period of 2008, secondly as a result of the drop in consumption by industrial customers (28.6 TWh in 2009 vs. 33.5 TWh in 2008 and 31.0 TWh in 2007) recorded in the midst of the crisis.

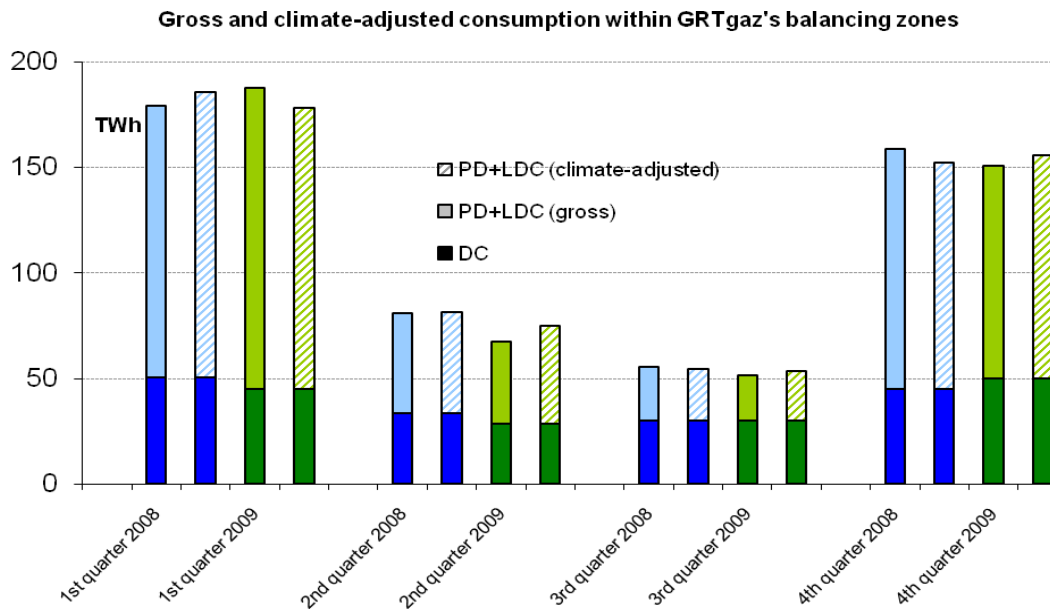
During the 2nd half of 2009, the warm temperatures recorded at the end of summer, combined with the late arrival of winter, led to a drop in consumption over the period under consideration (201.9 TWh in 2009 vs. 214.3 TWh in 2008 and 222.0 TWh in 2007), although mitigated by the recovery of consumption by industrial customers over the said period (80.3 TWh in 2009 vs. 75.2 TWh in 2008 and 79.8 TWh in 2007).

2. CLIMATE-ADJUSTED CONSUMPTION⁽³⁾

To enable comparisons to be made between two climatically different years, GRTgaz carries out a climate adjustment for gross consumption. Climate adjustment involves using a statistical model to evaluate the level of consumption that would have been noted for a reference climate defined as a benchmark. The reference climate adopted by GRTgaz corresponds to the average temperature for the period 1974-2003, adjusted to offset the trend towards global warming.

² GRTgaz operates and commercialises the natural gas transmission system across 4/5ths of France, i.e. the whole country with the exception of the South-West, which is supplied by TIGF.

³ The values shown do not include the quantities of natural gas used by GRTgaz for its own needs, in particular to operate its compressor stations.



With the exception of January and February, which were significantly cold, over the rest of the year 2009 temperatures were warmer than in 2008 and 2007. In January and February, the average temperatures recorded were significantly below the reference temperatures, which led to consumption levels higher than under the reference climate scenario. Consequently, climate-adjusted consumption in the 1st quarter of 2009 was lower by 9.5 TWh than gross consumption (187.4 – 9,5 = 177.9 TWh).

Over the longer period comprising the following three quarters of 2009, including the beginning of the 2009-2010 winter period, average temperatures were warmer than normal, which resulted in climate-adjusted consumption levels higher than the gross consumption levels recorded (over the three remaining quarters: 269.5 + 14.9 = 284.3 TWh).

For the full year 2009, adjusted consumption (462.2 TWh) was therefore higher than gross consumption (456.8 TWh).

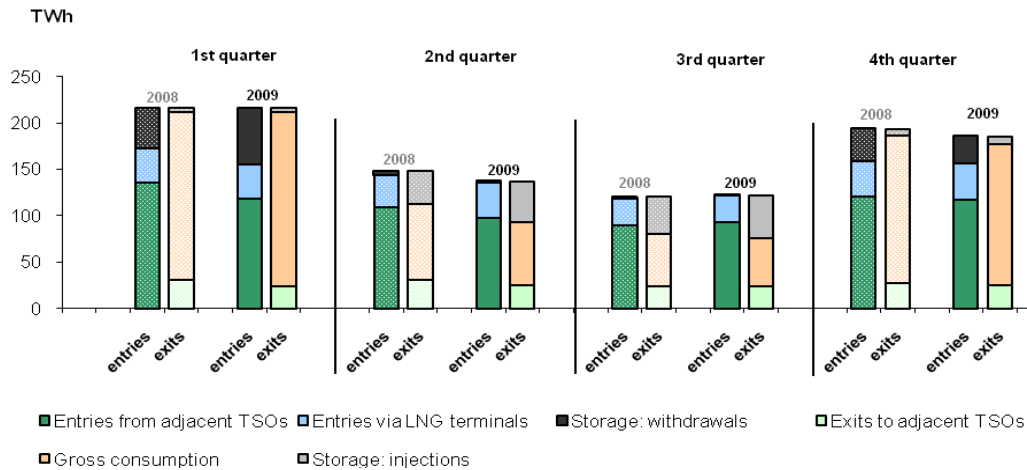
Once the climate adjustment had been made, the drop in consumption was 2.5% compared with 2008 (-3.7% vs. gross values). The economic crisis brought about a slowdown in industry, with a drop in industry consumption among small-and medium-sized public distribution companies and GRTgaz's direct customers (for the latter: 154.1 TWh in 2009 vs. 158.9 in 2008, i.e. a 3% downturn). Over the last quarter of 2009, consumption by GRTgaz's direct customers was up 7% on 2008 (50.2 TWh for the 4th quarter of 2009, against 44.9 TWh in 2008), thus getting back to the level of the last quarter of 2007 (50.0 TWh).

3. QUANTITIES OF NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTED

GRTgaz transports natural gas for consumption on its own territory, but also natural gas destined for adjacent transmission system operators and underground storage facilities connected to its network.

In 2009, consumption accounted for 69.5% of the total quantities transported, delivery to adjacent transmission system operators for 15%, and injection into underground storage facilities for 15.5%. The latter two uses correspond to specific requirements of shippers: firstly, transit through GRTgaz's transmission system to supply consumers from other countries; secondly, establishment and replenishment of natural gas reserves to cope with seasonal consumption fluctuations.

Quantities of natural gas transported by GRTgaz in 2008 and 2009



Trends in the quantities of natural gas transported vary depending on their purpose: between 2008 and 2009, quantities of natural gas delivered to adjacent TSOs dropped by 11.4%, and consumption was down 3.7%, whereas the quantities injected into underground storage facilities were up 16.2% (storage reservoirs had been largely tapped during the cold spell experienced in the 1st quarter and the Russian-Ukrainian gas crisis in January; consequently, these reserves had been replenished during the summer period).

	Deliveries to adjacent TSOs	Consumption (including GRTgaz's own consumption) ⁽⁴⁾	Injections into underground storage facilities	TOTAL
2009	99.3 TWh	459.3 TWh	102.5 TWh	661.1 TWh
2008	111.9 TWh	477.0 TWh	88.2 TWh	677.1 TWh
Diff.	-11,4%	-3,7%	+16,2%	-2,2%

GRTgaz is responsible for operating, maintaining and developing a natural gas transmission system in France more than 31,600 km long. GRTgaz transports almost 700 TWh of natural gas per year.

In a changing European market, GRTgaz has a dual role:

- to transport natural gas to customers at optimum cost and in maximum safety
- to contribute to the opening up of the French natural gas market by giving access to the transmission system and the services associated with it in non-discriminatory manner.

In particular, GRTgaz must maintain the continuity of the gas transportation service, which is a public service obligation. The surveys and consumption forecasts conducted by GRTgaz are used to steer its network development strategy and to set the dimensions of the infrastructures required to fulfil this obligation.

⁴ These are the quantities consumed by the large users connected directly to the GRTgaz system, by local distribution networks supplied by GRTgaz and by GRTgaz itself for its own needs, in particular to operate its compressor stations.