Energy Efficiency Profile : Malta

October 2008

Energy Efficiency Trends

Overview

Between 2000-2006 the energy efficiency index for the whole economy (ODEX) improved by 5%, against a improvement of 5 % for the EU-27. This is due to a deterioration of the energy efficiency of industry, contrary to transport and households, where the efficiency is improving

Industry

The efficiency of the industrial sector (measured at the level over the 7 main branches in terms of energy used per unit value added - and aggregated for the whole sector) showed a regression by 30% from 2000 to 2006. A significant difference between EU statistics and the Malta measurement of ODEX is that in Malta, the sectoral value added is used as a proxy for the sectoral production index as used in the rest of Europe, since the official production indices are not maintained so far. The quality of the data relating to energy consumption will also be upgraded following an extensive exercise by the national statistics office during the course of next year.

Households

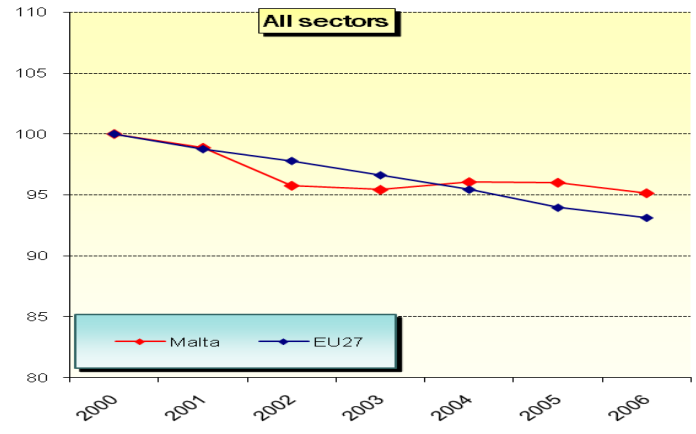
Between 2000 and 2006, the total energy efficiency of households improved by 3%. For heating, the data cannot be classified as the energy is mainly electrical, which is lumped with other consumption. Nevertheless, the energy demand for cooling is significantly on the increase with a greater importation of air conditioning units. Its consumption is also lumped with electricity for lighting and cooking.

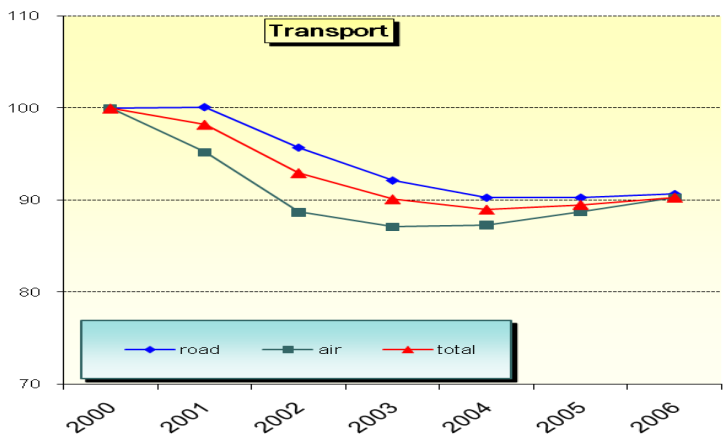
However since 2000 there was a notable shift from electric space heating to the use of portable gas (LPG) heaters; further shifts are expected in the future.

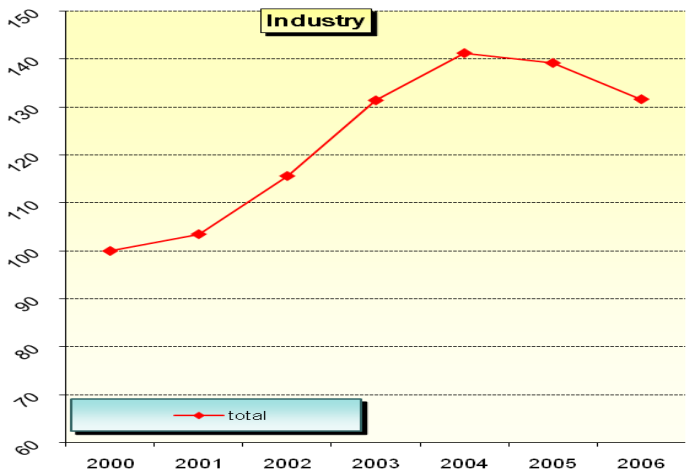
Transport

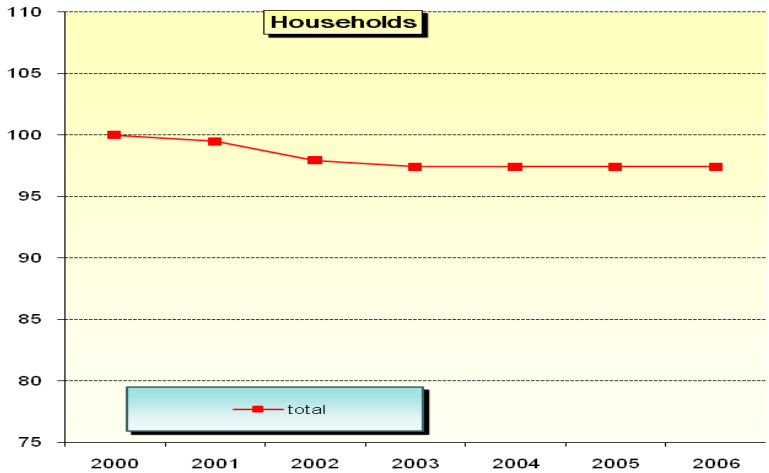
Between 2000 and 2006, the transport sector experienced a marginal increase in energy efficiency: 5%. This development is mainly due to the efficiency improvements in vehicle engines. Malta has no domestic air or rail transport systems.

Energy efficiency index , base 100=2000









Source: ODYSSEE data base

For more information: http://www.odyssee-indicators.org/database/definition_odex.pdf

Energy Efficiency Policy Measures

Institutions and programmes

As part of Malta's alignment with EU policies, Parliament saw the setting up of the Malta Resources Authority Act in 2000, set up under the Minister responsible for Resources. As a public corporate body its mandate is to regulate and advise Government on matters related to energy, water and mineral resources (including quarrying and oil exploration). Its role is also to advise, co-ordinate and assist other government entities, to promote and administer energy legislation and to conduct analyses and assessments of developments in the energy sector.

Through the MRA, the Maltese Government has launched a number of energy efficiency programmes as part of a holistic energy policy, running in parallel with the three pillars of EU Energy Policy, namely security of supply, open market competition, and the protection of the environment. In tandem to the MRA, the MEPA (Malta Environment & Planning Authority), apart from being the Authority responsible for all master planning and local development, is also responsible for conducting air quality surveys and the drawing up of biennial 'State of the Environment Report'.

Industry

Malta Enterprise has implemented up a number of initiatives to enhance energy savings and improve energy efficiency in the industrial sector. Other initiatives of Government include:

- Power factor correction for large scale energy users.
- Energy auditing scheme for major industrial activities (production processes).
- Eco-contribution as a disincentive to minimize waste (industrial, commercial & domestic sectors)

Households, Services

Energy consumption in buildings is the latest intensified energy conservation focused effort. This is spelt out through a specific Legal Notice (Nov 2006). With effect from January 2007. the main initiatives include a new stringent energy requirement in the Building Regulations (part F). This will eventually lead to a harmonised energy certificate for all buildings by 2009 (effective mandatory date under EU legislation). A standard national calculation software tool is being designed in conformity with EU methodology for energy certification of buildings at design and auditing stages. Household appliances are now subjected to an improved energy labelling scheme, enhanced inspection of boilers and ventilation systems and increased efforts in energy savings and green procurement in the public sector at large.

Transport

The Maltese government considers cost efficiency for commuters as one essential basic tool for regulating energy efficiency and minimising environmental impact of transport. In the absence of local air, surface rail or underground transport communal travel is encouraged through public transport by bus (diesel running). A 'Park and Ride' scheme has been in operation for almost a year and a new CVA (controlled vehicle access) scheme was introduced from 01 May 2007, This has introduced an hourly charge for entry into Valletta, a historical city, during office hours yet encouraging free access in the evenings promoting private enterprise and social activities.

Energy prices and taxes

Energy prices and taxes are among the most important determinants of energy consumption and have been successfully used to promote energy savings in Malta. Formerly, heavily subsidised electricity rates were always considered a social commodity, almost by right, provided by a state-monopoly corporation, Enemalta. However, electricity tariffs went through a general overhaul in 2003, and another major review in 2008, essentially reflecting the true price of oil on international markets. Although this affected all sectors, the household and tertiary felt this most, raising a greater awareness of savings in consumption and the importance of energy efficiency at all levels.

Selected Energy Efficiency Measures

Sectors	Title
Households	Promotion of solar water heaters
Households	Subsidy schemes for insulation for buildings
Households	Promotion of compact fluorescent lamps
Tertiary	Energy efficiency promotion in the tourism industry
Tertiary	Improvements in street lighting
Industry	Support schemes for industry and sme's
Transport	Green travel plans for the public sector
Transport	Promotion of electric vehicles
Transport	Promotion of modal shifts

Source: MURE data base
www.mure2.com