

# Analysis of UK gas consumption 1960 - 1986

## Introduction

Energy consumption from all sources has been increasing in most countries of the world over the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Due to its easy availability, ease of transport and storage, and relative low emissions compared to burning coal, natural gas has seen an especially large growth.

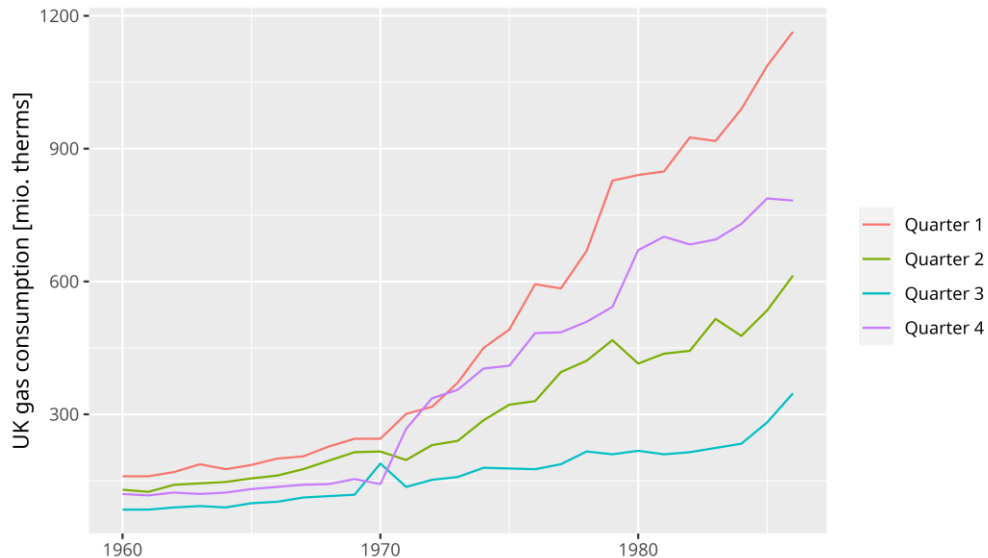


Figure 1: UK gas consumption per quarter

## Analysis

Figure 1 shows UK gas consumption by quarter from 1960 to 1986. Median consumption in that time was 371mio therms in Q1, 240mio therms in Q2, 176mio therms in Q3, and 355mio therms in Q4. Consumption in Q1 and Q4 is higher due to the use of gas for heating.

The general trend is upward from about 150 mio. therms per quarter in 1960, to over 300 mio therms in Q3 to almost 1200 mio. therms in Q1. Comparing 1970 with 1975 specifically, increases were seen in Q1 (+247m therms), in Q2 (+106mio therms), and in Q4 (+267mio therms). Due to an anomalously large consumption in Q3 of 1970, consumption in Q3 saw a decrease from 1970 to 1975 by 11.2m therms.

While total gas consumption per quarter increased over time in general, the rate of increase in Q4 has been particularly high relative to the other quarters, which could be explained by several factors, such as seasonal changes in industrial processes that rely on gas, or rising wealth in the population who could afford to start heating their homes earlier in the year.