

SOME PROBLEMS OF ENERGY STATISTICS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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Rosstat specialists provide international agencies with monthly information on production (extraction) of major types of fuel and energy resources (FER). Also recently they have been presenting data on production, import, export, stocks and consumption on domestic market of oil and major oil products, natural and condensed gas.

Rosstat specialists annually fill in International Energy Agency questionnaires, which represent energy balance sheets by different types of FER.

Rosstat experts encounter the following problems while presenting to international agencies the above-mentioned information.

1. Problems in obtaining data on production, consumption and residues of FER. Data on fuel and energy production (extraction) are calculated as a sum of data on large-, medium- and small-sized enterprises. At the same time, production volume of small enterprises is calculated using data of sample surveys, conducted at those enterprises.

However, this procedure of sampling is aimed at calculation of cost indicators of product's shipment, but not certain types of production in physical units. That is why in some cases monthly total surveys on strategic types of production, including oil and gas are accepted. In general, major types of FER production volumes, which are calculated using quarter reports, are not big: in 2006 their share in oil production constituted 3,6%, in coal — 1,7%, in gas — 0,2%, in heat power — 1,1%. Adjustment share in electric power and oil products is insignificant.

Data on FER consumption volumes are collected only in large- and medium-sized enterprises. The above-mentioned approach of small enterprises sample survey is not applied to these indicators. This is the reason why while making annual energy balance sheets Rosstat specialists have to make appropriate adjustments for calculation of total FER consumption volumes. Unlike the case of production, the share of adjustment in total volume of particular types of FER consumption reaches considerable figures. For example, in 2005 it was 43% for gasoline, 8% for gas, whereas for coal it was only 1%.

While making balance sheets we do not calculate total volumes of stock and we use data reported only by large- and medium-sized enterprises.

Annual reports include data on fuel stock in producers' stock houses, consumers and resellers' stock. Rosstat does not collect data on oil stock as raw material at oil refineries, oil residues in oil-tanks at "Transneft". Rosstat obtains those data from The Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Russian Federation and the joint-stock company "Transneft" respectively.

2. Certain problems appear because of existing differences between Russian and international classifications. For example in the All-Russia classification of products and in the Commodity Classification of Foreign Economic Activities there are two different definitions for "fuel oil". Therefore there is a problem how to link the data on production, consumption, and residues with data on export and import for this type of fuel. This problem will be solved after introduction of new All-Russia classification of products harmonised with international classifications.

Before the implementation of new All-Russia Classification of types of Economic Activities, harmonized with international classifications, there were some difficulties in filling in questionnaires with data on distribution of FER consumption in different sectors. The 2005 Russian energy balance sheets had a new structure and the questionnaires for this year were completed in line with International Energy Agency recommendations. At the same time 2005 questionnaires data are not comparable with previous questionnaires in terms of resources distribution by types of activities in different sectors. It is impossible to make any retrospective recalculation of data on FER consumption volume by types of activities.

3. In recent years we have also experienced difficulties with data on export-import operations, produced by Federal Customs Service. Customs statistics data may not always be used for making a balance because of existing rules of customs declarations filling (up to 90 days from the day of export goods shipment).

The discrepancy of accounting year's data on shipped and declared fuel may be ignored, but as to monthly balances, there may be substantial differences between the actual situation and the data submitted by Federal Customs Service.

4. Though there are certain difficulties in Russian energy statistics the information is sufficient for annual energy balances. Unfortunately the available data are insufficient for compiling of monthly energy balances in accordance with international organizations requirements.

State statistics institutions produce only data on FER production and shipment, residues in producers stocks and Federal Customs Service produces data on export and import. FER consumption volumes may be defined only through calculations: production plus (minus) stocks plus (minus) exports/imports. The lack of information on fuel wastage during the extraction and enrichment, fuel stocks of consumers and inadequate data on fuel export and import for reporting month lead to serious distortion of consumption

volumes, calculated for each month.

5. It should be noted that international guidelines contain the requirements, which statistical indicators should be disseminated by national statistical offices responsible for energy statistics, but there are little information about the ways of information collection and processing in order to get required indicators.

Taking into account the above-mentioned information we can distinguish the following ways of development energy statistics in Russia:

- a) Improvement of small business fuel and energy production and consumption sample surveys based on the best international practices.
- b) Further harmonisation of national classifications in line with international classifications.