

Energy Economics, Winter Semester 2025-6

Lecture 11: Gas Markets

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1. Introduction to Gas Markets
2. Properties and reserves
3. Gas Pipelines
4. Liquified Natural Gas
5. Gas Storage
6. Wholesale Markets for Gas
7. Hydrogen and CO₂ network

Introduction to Gas Markets

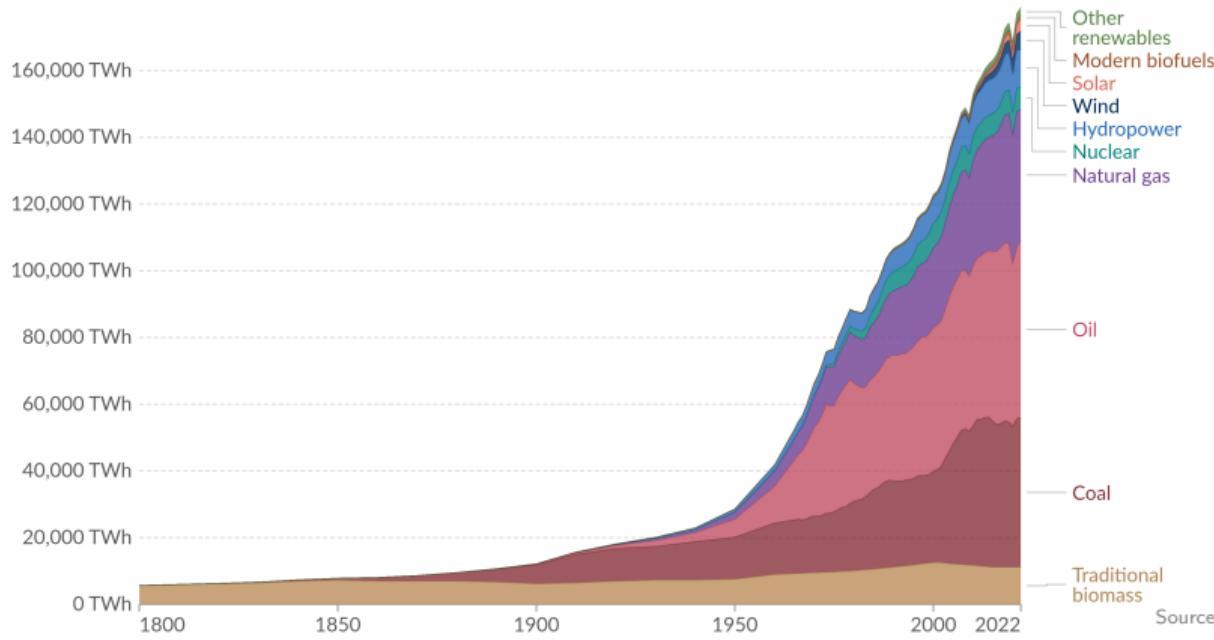
Fossil gas: historical perspective

Extraction of fossil gas took off in the 1960s with discoveries in the USA, Western Siberia, North Sea and elsewhere, as well as advancing technology to transport, store and use it.

Global primary energy consumption by source

Our World in Data

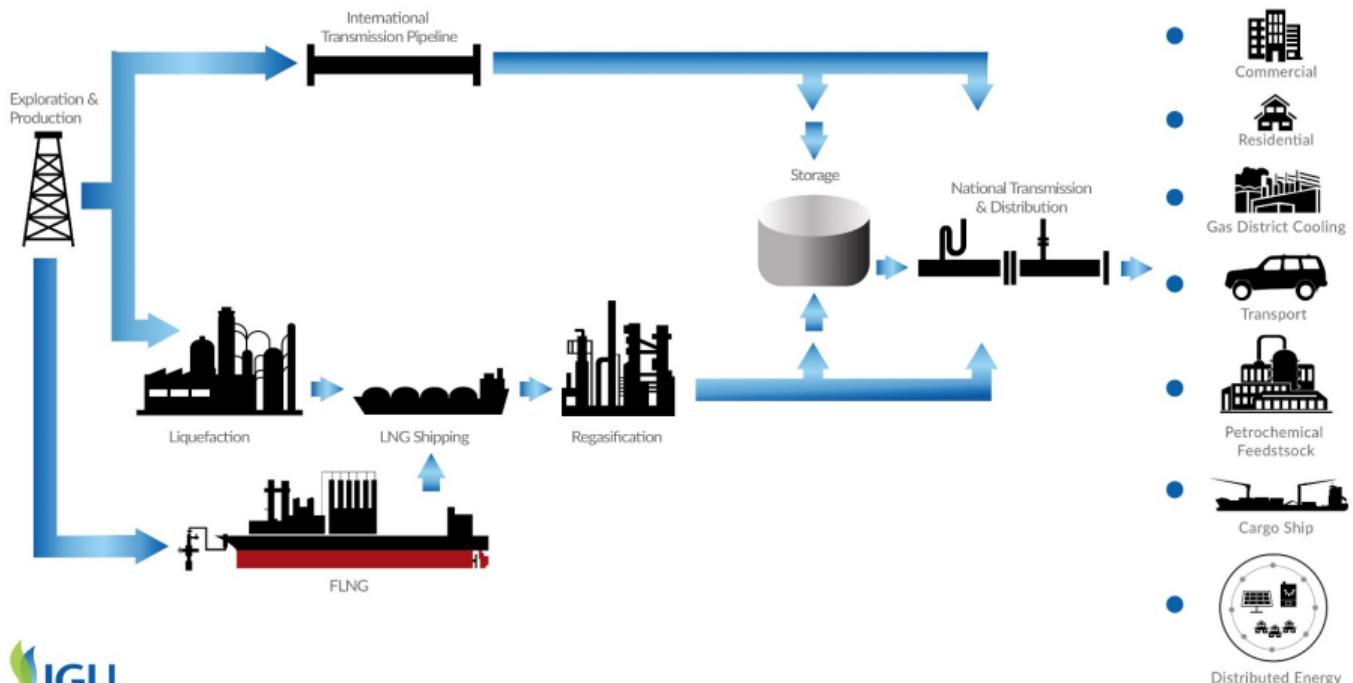
Primary energy¹ is based on the substitution method² and measured in terawatt-hours³.



Fossil gas in comparison to other energy carriers

- Fossil gas is a **naturally-occurring** fossil fuel (like oil and coal, unlike coal/town gas produced from coal; this is why fossil gas is often called **natural gas**)
- Gas is **easily storable** in overground tanks or underground geological formations (like oil and coal, unlike electricity)
- Originally (i.e. end of 19th century, first half of 20th century) gas was **hard to move around**, so was only used locally (like electricity) or flared
- Since mid-20th century gas can be transported and distributed **by pipeline** (like oil), which makes long-distance transport and delivery to households easier than e.g. coal
- Since late-20th century gas can be transported as liquified natural gas (LNG) **by ship** (like oil and coal)
- Gas is used for energy but also as a **non-energy feedstock** (like oil and coal) for ammonia and other chemicals like methanol and plastics

Fossil gas value chain



There is a substantial debate about the role of fossil gas in the Energy Transition.

- Can we use fossil gas as a **bridge** from coal to a future fossil-free system? (It should have lower emissions than coal and gas plants can run flexibly to balance VRE; but can we avoid fossil gas and move straight to storage and flexibility?)
- Can we avoid fossil gas being used for **geopolitical purposes** by producers?
- Does **methane leakage** in production and distribution outweigh the climate benefits? (Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and substantial leakage can make it as bad as coal, but leakage can also be detected and regulated.)
- Can we retrofit fossil gas infrastructure for **hydrogen**? What about **biogas**?
- How do we replace **feedstock** uses of fossil gas?

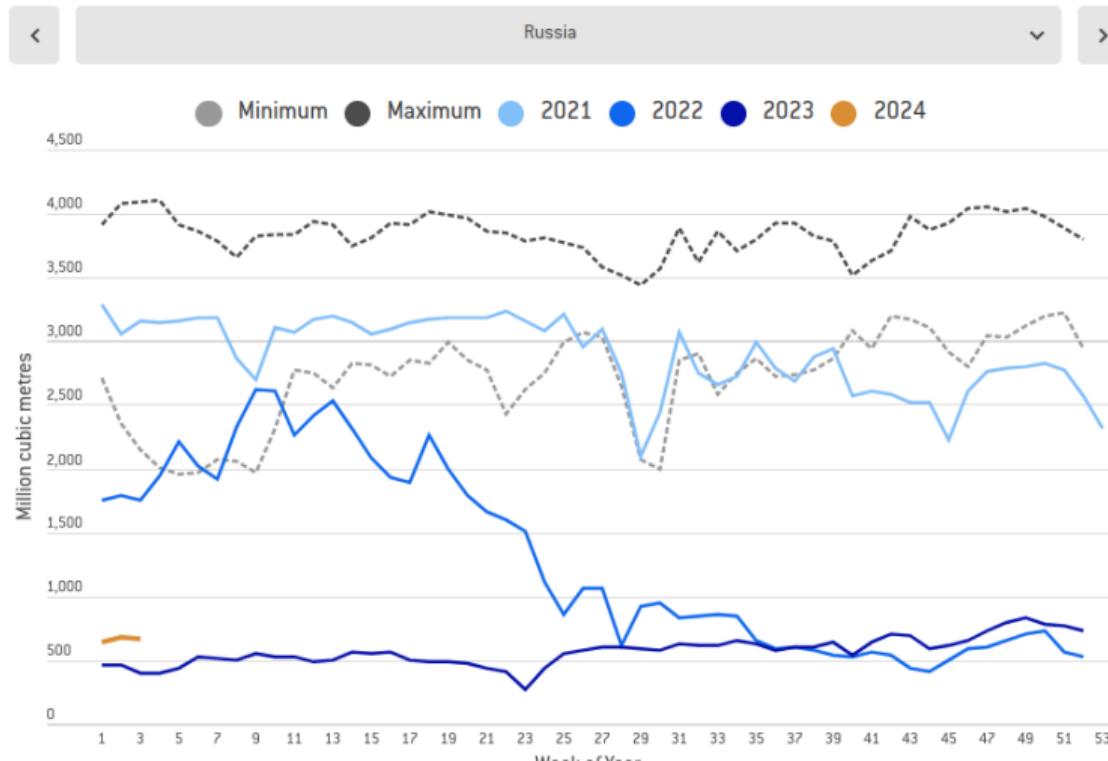
Gas crisis 2021-2023

Gas prices had been stable around ~ 20 €/MWh, but in late 2021 and early 2022 rose to reach a peak of nearly 350 €/MWh. Here is the TTF (Title Transfer Facility) price for the virtual hub in the Netherlands.



Gas crisis 2021-2023

The reason is of course reduced supply from Russia as well as additional factors (demand bounceback after pandemic, maintenance, shutdown of Groningen field, etc.).

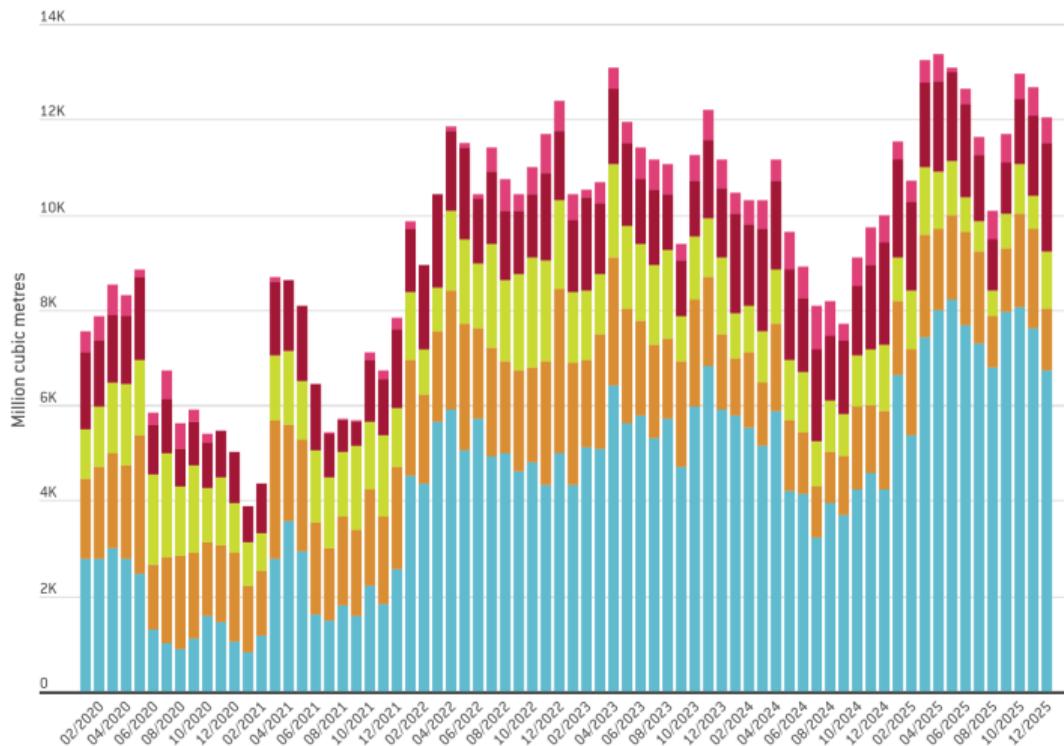


Gas crisis 2021-2023

Figure 4: EU LNG monthly imports by region of origin

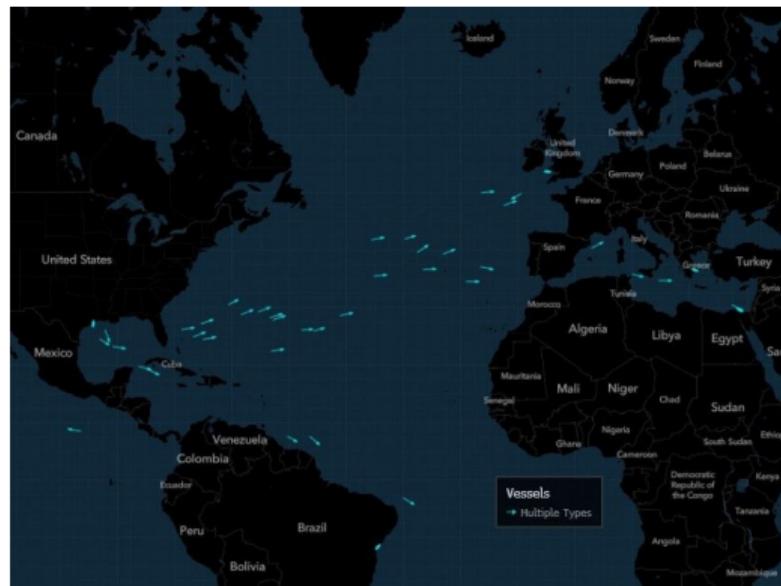
Last updated: 08/01/2026 (updated every month)

● America ● Africa ● Middle East ● Russia ● Other

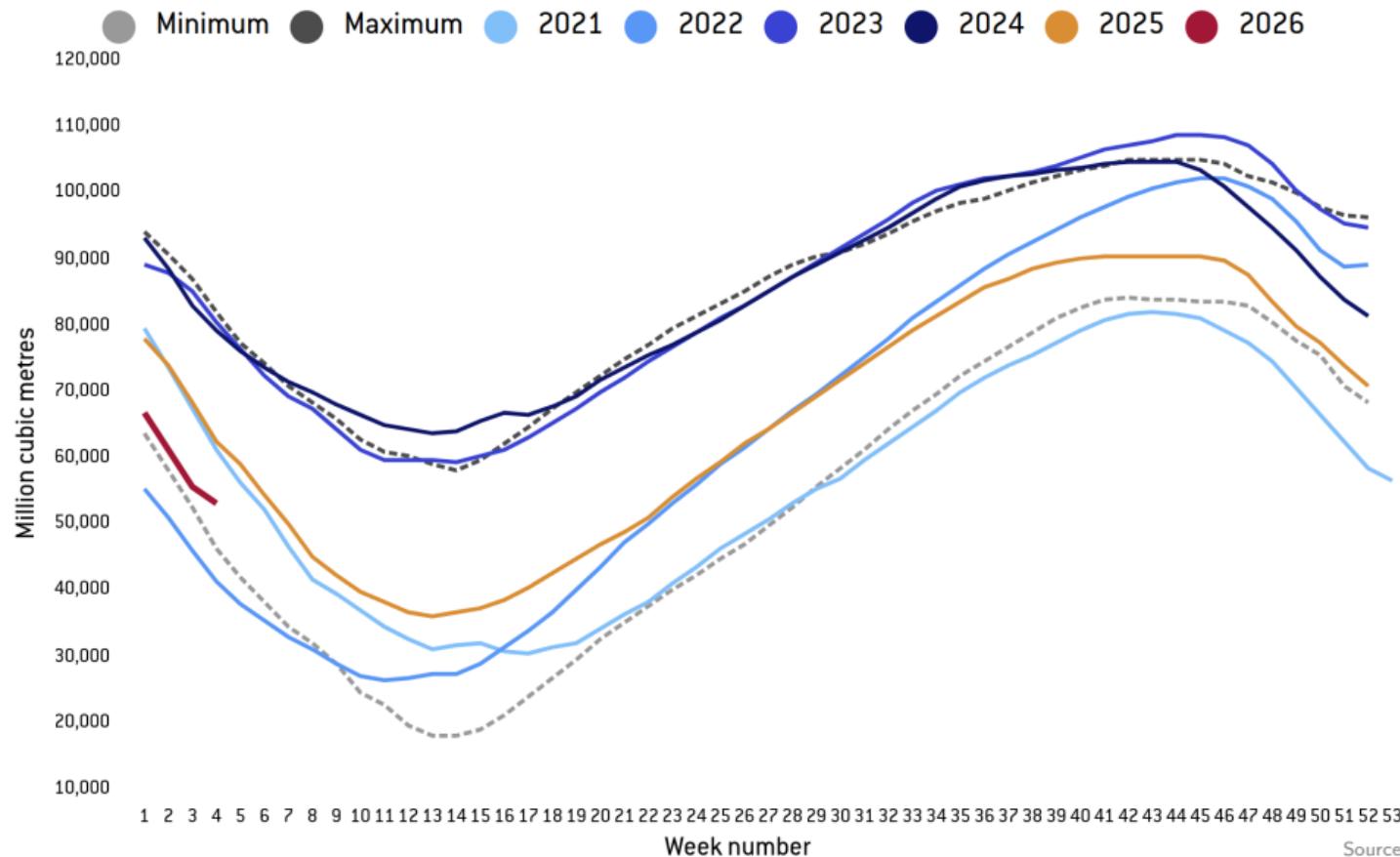


Gas crisis 2021-2023

LNG ships flocked to Europe, including one on its way to Asia from the US, which turned around mid-Pacific to return through the Panama canal.



Gas crisis 2021-2023: EU natural gas storage filling level



Properties and reserves

- **Fossil gas**, also known as **natural gas** (to distinguish it from coal-derived gas), consists primarily of **methane** (CH_4).
 - **H gas** - high-calorific natural gas ($\sim 87 - 99\%$ CH_4 content → higher heat value)
 - **L gas** - low-calorific natural gas ($\sim 80 - 87\%$ CH_4 content, rest nitrogen and carbon dioxide, used to be produced in North Germany & Netherlands, phased out)
- **Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)** (Autogas in DE) - mainly propane and butane, byproduct of oil refinery process
- **Town/coal/coking gas** - byproduct of coke plants (mix of CH_4 , H_2 , CO , CO_2 , N_2)
- **Hydrogen** - used as chemical feedstock, could be used in transport / iron reduction / heating / backup for electricity, could also be produced without CO_2 emissions

Gaseous fuels properties

| | | Density (kg/m ³) ^a | Upper heating value H _s (MJ/m ³) | Lower heating value H _i (MJ/m ³) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Methane | CH ₄ | 0.7175 | 39.819 | 35.883 |
| Ethane | C ₂ H ₆ | 1.3550 | 70.293 | 64.345 |
| Propane | C ₃ H ₈ | 2.0110 | 101.242 | 93.215 |
| Butane | C ₄ H ₁₀ | 2.7080 | 134.061 | 123.810 |
| Hydrogen | H ₂ | 0.08988 | 12.745 | 10.783 |
| Carbon monoxide | CO | 1.25050 | 12.633 | 12.633 |
| Nitrogen | N ₂ | 1.2504 | | |
| Oxygen | O ₂ | 1.4290 | | |
| Carbon dioxide | CO ₂ | 1.9770 | | |
| Air | | 1.2930 | | |
| Natural gas H | | 0.79 | ~41 | ~37 |
| Natural gas L | | 0.83 | ~35 | ~32 |
| Biogas | | 1.12 | ~27 | ~24 |

^aAt a temperature of 0 °C and a pressure of 1.013 bar

Natural gas conversion

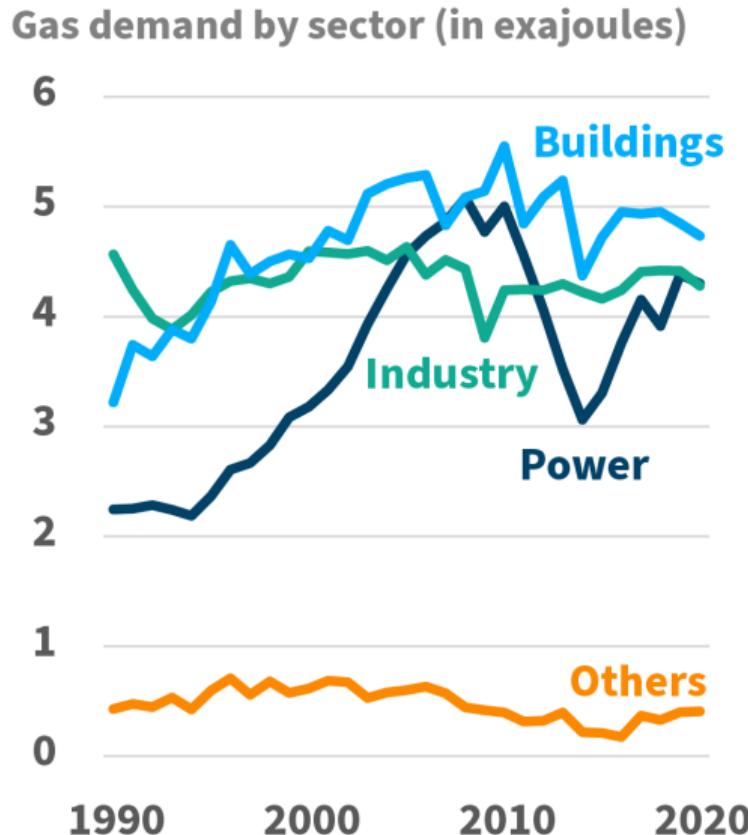
| | Nm ³ natural gas | scf ^a of natural gas | kg LNG | MJ | mn BTU | Therm | kWh |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Nm ³ natural gas | 1 | 35.3 | 0.73 | 37.5 | 0.035 | 0.355 | 10.4 |
| scf ^a natural gas | 0.0283 | 1 | 0.0207 | 1.06 | 0.001 | 0.01 | 0.294 |
| kg LNG | 1.37 | 48.36 | 1 | 51.3 | 0.049 | 0.486 | 14.2 |
| MJ | 0.027 | 0.94 | 0.019 | 1 | 0.001 | 0.0095 | 0.2778 |
| mn BTU | 28.2 | 996 | 20.6 | 1055 | 1 | 10 | 293 |
| Therm | 2.82 | 99.6 | 2.06 | 105.5 | 0.1 | 1 | 29.3 |
| kWh | 0.096 | 3.40 | 0.07 | 3.6 | 0.0034 | 0.0341 | 1 |

Nm³: normal cubic metre at 1.013 bar and 0° C, sometimes written cm for cubic metre

scf: standard cubic foot at 1.013 bar and 60° F = 15.6° C

MJ, kWh: at lower heating value (LHV)

EU natural gas demand by sector



- Gas demand in EU27 dominated by buildings (i.e. space and water heating), industry (i.e. for heat and including non-energy feedstocks for e.g. ammonia) and power generation
- Gas industry expects demand to rise, while scenarios compatible with the Paris Agreement require it to decline in all sectors

- **Conventional natural gas**

- Extracted from gas deposits by conventional means (vertical drilling)
- Associated gas - released during oil extraction (often flared but can be utilised)

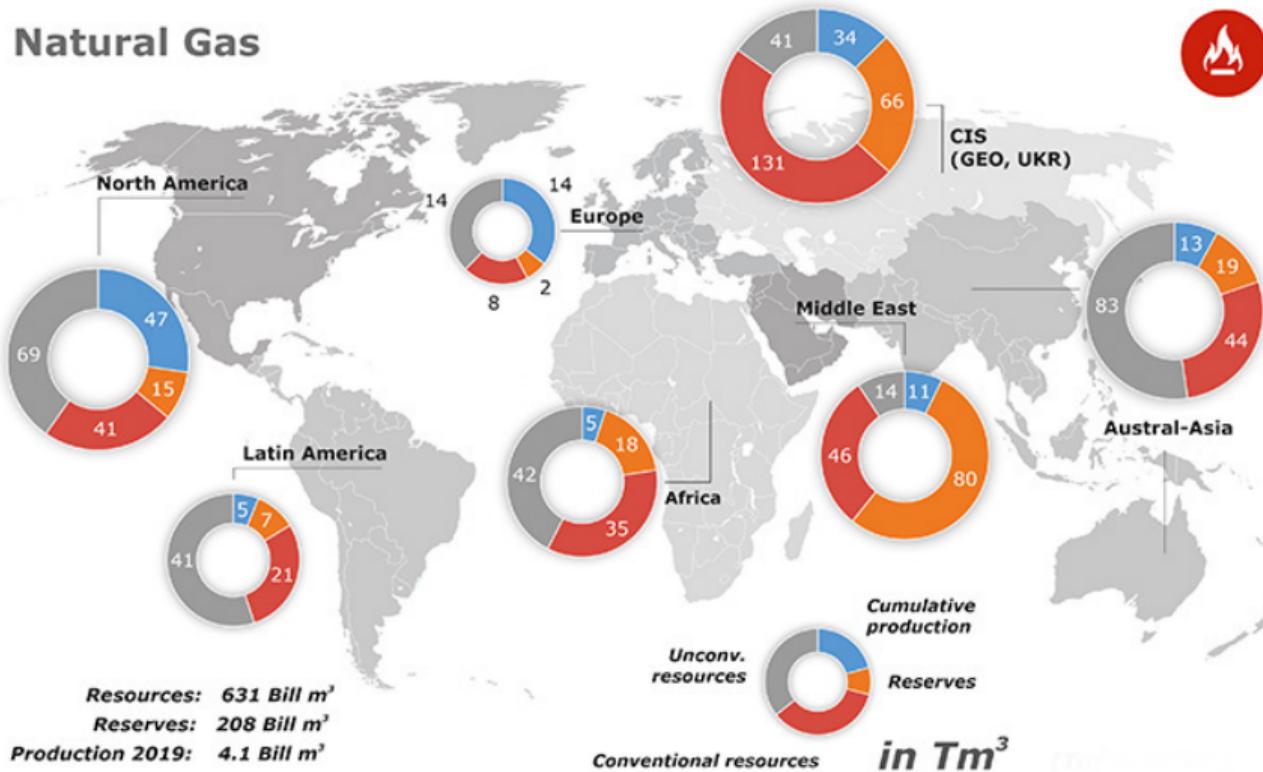
- **Unconventional natural gas**

- Shale gas (>1000 m deep) - extracted by fracking
- Coal bed methane - found in coal formations (300-1000 m deep)
- Methane hydrates - found on ocean seabed

Global gas resources and reserves

Results are in trillion m³ (German Billion) or Tm³ = 10¹² m³.

Natural Gas

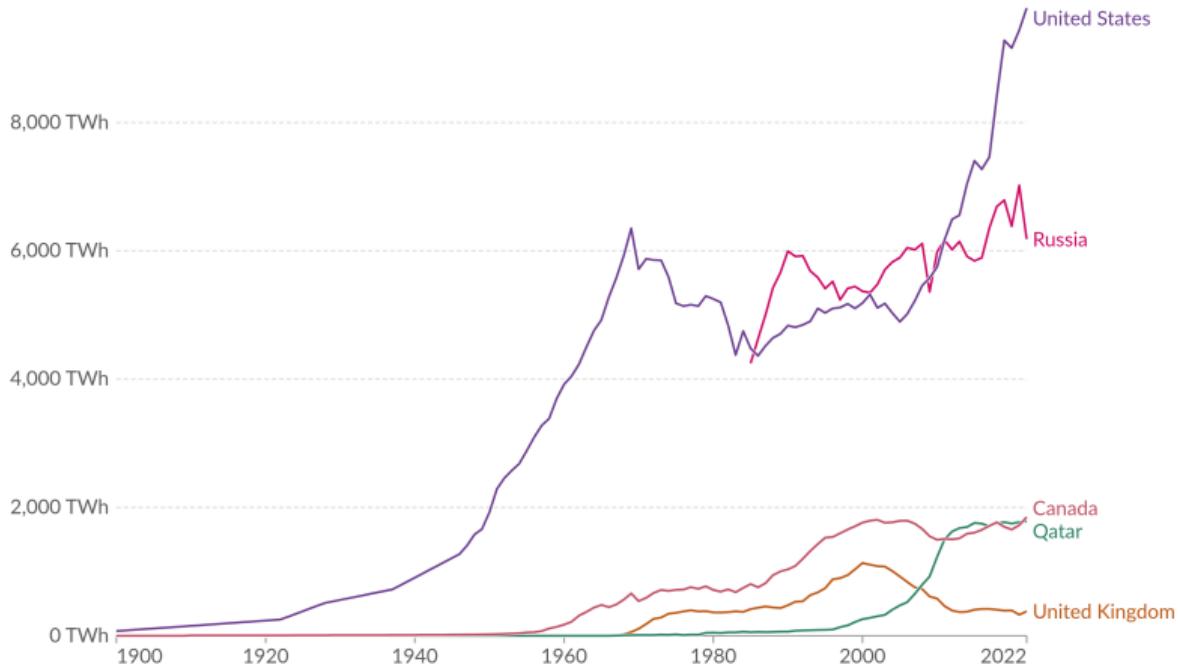


Global gas extraction

Gas production

Measured in terawatt-hours.

Our World in Data



Data source: Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2023); The Shift Data Portal (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/fossil-fuels | CC BY

Russian pipeline imports dominated supply in Central/Eastern Europe

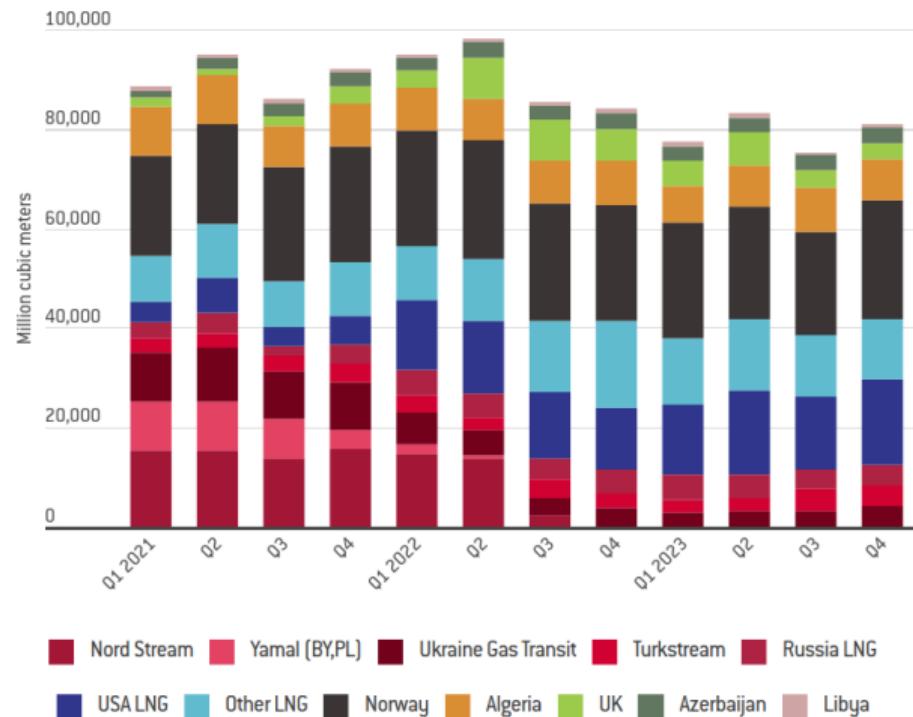


EU imports of natural gas by source

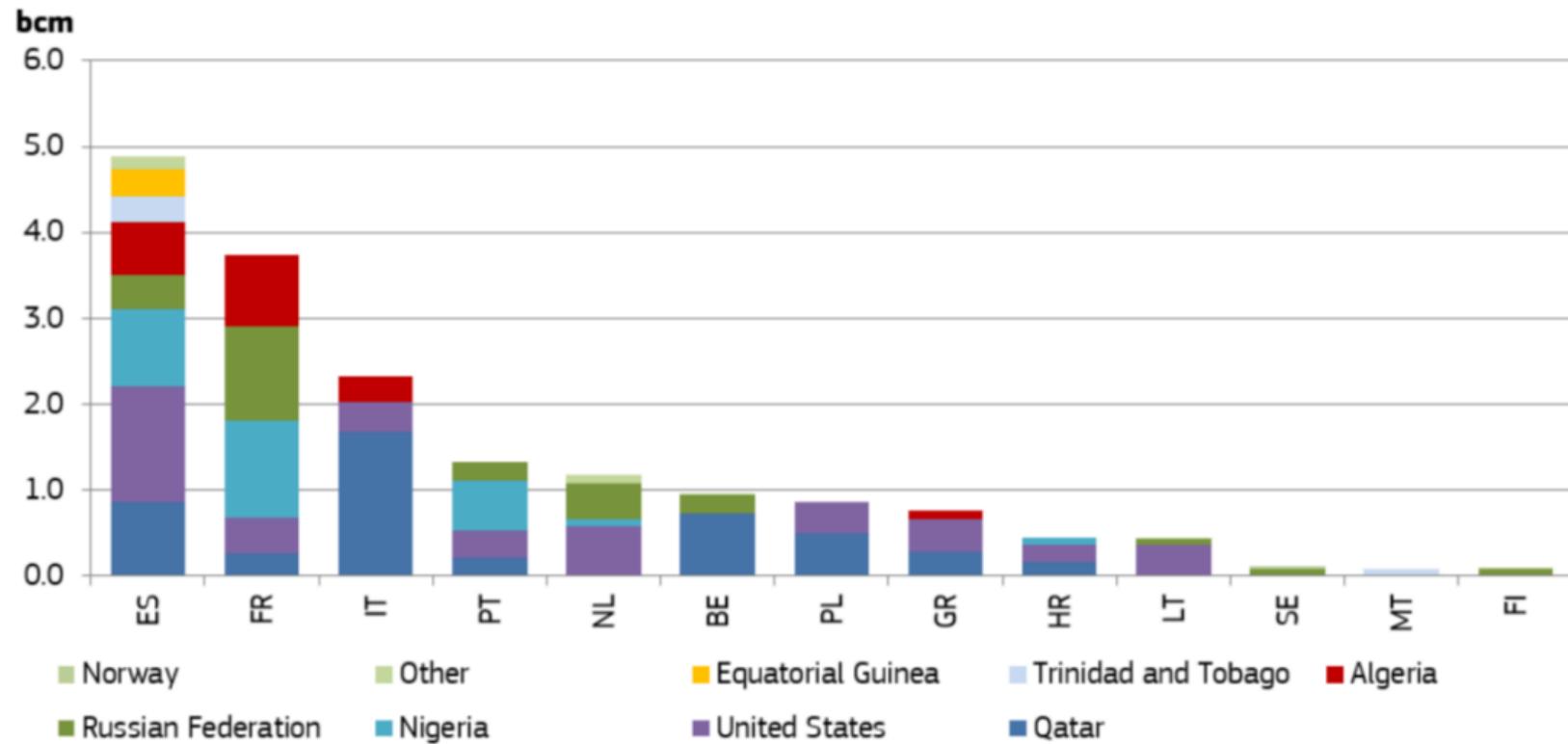
The EU imports ~4000 TWh/a or 400 bcm/a of natural gas through pipelines and LNG.

Figure 5: EU quarterly imports by source

Last updated: 10/01/2024 (updated every quarter)

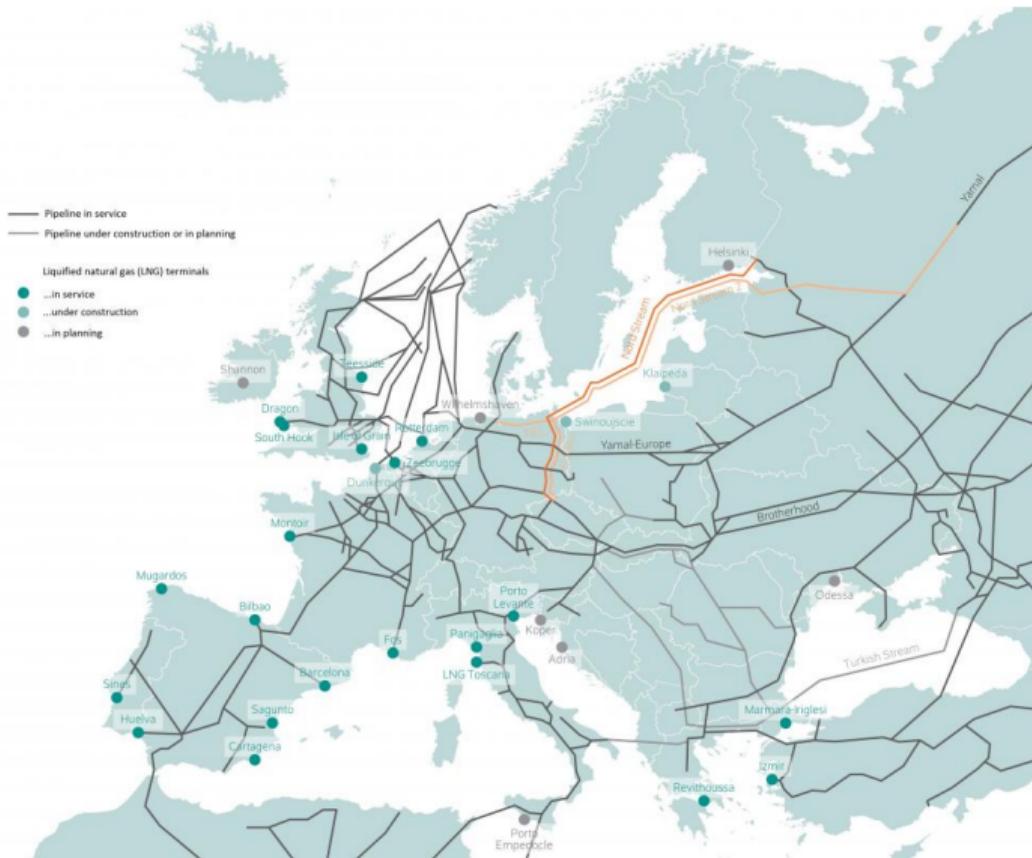


EU LNG imports to member states in Q3 2021



Gas Pipelines

European pipeline network



The **throughput** Q [m^3/h] of a gas pipeline is given by (approximately)

$$Q \sim \sqrt{\frac{P_1^2 - P_2^2}{\ell/d^2}}$$

where P_1 and P_2 are the pressures at the start and end of the pipe, ℓ is the length of the pipeline section (between two compressor stations) and d is the diameter. More complicated formulae can account for height differences and pipe roughness.

Pipeline **capacity** is the maximum throughput.

Pipeline pressures can be up to 80 bar, with a diameter of up to 1400 mm (e.g. OPAL pipeline) and covering a distance of up to 6000 km.

Compressor stations along the pipeline compensate for pressure losses (0.1 bar per 10 km) due to frictional losses/changing elevation and are placed at intervals of 80-400 km.

Compressors use energy from natural gas, consuming around 10% of gas over 5000 km.

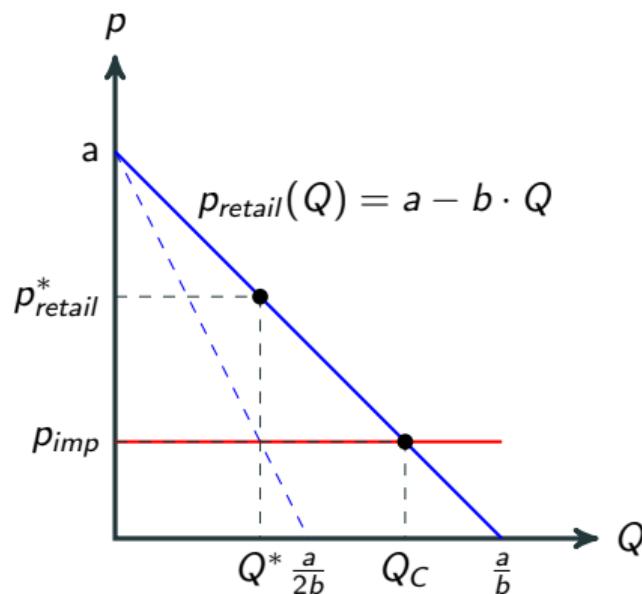
Single 80 bar pipeline can transport up to 3 mcm/h (or 26 bcm/a) at speeds up to 40 km/h .

- Long-distance gas transport is not necessarily a natural monopoly - can have **pipe-to-pipe** competition (i.e. parallel pipes) or **pipe-in-pipe** competition (where companies co-own pipeline).
- Have strong **economies of scale** (when doubling capacity, costs rise only 66%).
- **Hold-Up Problem:** After realizing a pipeline project, the investor finds themselves in a strategically weak position based on the irreversible nature of the investment (**sunk cost**). The pipeline operator's profit depends on the goodwill of the contract partner located at the end (beginning) of the pipeline.

- Two companies: monopolistic gas importer who supplies the retail market, and a monopolistic pipeline operator who is also a dominant gas producer in the exporting country
- In the first step of the game theoretic model the pipeline operator optimizes their pipeline capital stock K . In the second step the import price $p_{imp}(K)$ is determined by negotiations between the two monopolists
- Both parties optimize independent from each other their profit (**non-cooperative game**)
- Mathematical solution of the model in the opposite order: First the condition for the import price is determined, i.e. the result of the negotiations between the two monopolists in step two. Then determine K .
- To determine $p_{imp}(K)$, the gas producer is able to infer the import price resulting from gas import's optimisation based on the domestic demand curve. It then optimises its profit at the given import price.

Retail Gas Price set by the Monopolistic Gas Importer

For linear inverse demand function $p_{retail}(Q) = a - b \cdot Q$ and given import price p_{imp} (importer's marginal cost neglecting other cost elements), the gas retailer optimises its profits.



The retailer maximises their profit as a function of Q :

$$\max_Q \Pi_{imp}(Q) = \max_Q Q \cdot (p_{retail} - p_{imp}) = \max_Q Q \cdot (a - b \cdot Q - p_{imp})$$

Differentiating by Q to find the maximum:

$$\frac{d\Pi_{imp}}{dQ} = a - p_{imp} - 2 \cdot b \cdot Q = 0$$

so that the optimal sales volume is $Q^* = \frac{a - p_{imp}}{2b}$ and the profit-maximising retail price is $p_{retail}^* = a - b \cdot Q^* = \frac{a + p_{imp}}{2}$. The monopolist retailer determines the quantity based on the intersection of the marginal revenue curve $a - 2 \cdot b \cdot Q$ (dashed line) and the import price p_{imp} .

Now turn to producer and pipeline operator (e.g. Gazprom) that seeks to maximise its profit knowing the importer's demand function and hence optimal Q^* . They can only control p_{imp} given their cost function $c(K)$ (for the costs of extracting and transporting the gas), which depends on the capacity K and is independent of Q or p_{imp} . They maximise profit:

$$\max_{p_{imp}} \Pi_{producer}(p_{imp}) = \max_{p_{imp}} (p_{imp} - c(K)) \cdot Q = \max_{p_{imp}} (p_{imp} - c(K)) \cdot \frac{a - p_{imp}}{2b}$$

By solving for the maximum

$$\frac{d\Pi_{producer}}{dp_{imp}} = -\frac{p_{imp}}{b} + \frac{a + c(K)}{2b} = 0$$

we find the optimal import price to be $p_{imp}^* = \frac{a+c(K)}{2}$. Note that this is larger than $c(K)$ as long as $a > c(K)$. Plugging this into $Q^* = \frac{a-p_{imp}}{2b}$ we get $Q^* = \frac{a-c(K)}{4b}$ and into $p_{retail}^* = \frac{a+p_{imp}}{2}$ we get $p_{retail}^* = \frac{3a+c(K)}{4}$.

This solution whereby each game player knows the strategies of the others but has nothing to gain by changing their own behaviour is known as a **Nash equilibrium**.

The profits of the importer are given by

$$\Pi_{imp}^* = Q^* \cdot (p_{retail}^* - p_{imp}) = \frac{1}{4b} \left(\frac{a - c(K)}{2} \right)^2$$

and for the extractor/pipeline operator by

$$\Pi_{producer}^* = (p_{imp}^* - c(K)) \cdot Q^* = \frac{1}{2b} \left(\frac{a - c(K)}{2} \right)^2$$

so in sum:

$$\Pi_{non-coop}^* = \Pi_{imp}^* + \Pi_{producer}^* = \frac{3}{4b} \left(\frac{a - c(K)}{2} \right)^2$$

Now what happens if they cooperate?

Suppose now the importer and pipeline operator+extractor **cooperate** to maximise their total profit Π_{coop} . Now they are a single vertically-integrated monopoly and optimise:

$$\max_Q \Pi_{coop}(Q) = \max_Q (p_{retail} - c(K)) \cdot Q = \max_Q (a - b \cdot Q - c(K)) \cdot Q$$

Now we find (like monopoly example with linear cost function from early lecture)

$$Q^* = \frac{a - c(K)}{2b}, \quad p_{retail, coop}^* = \frac{a + c(K)}{2}$$

Since $c(K) < p_{imp}$, this cooperative retail price is lower than the non-cooperative price, so the consumer welfare increases under the cooperative solution.

In addition, the profits of the two monopolists also increases if they cooperate, so that overall welfare increases:

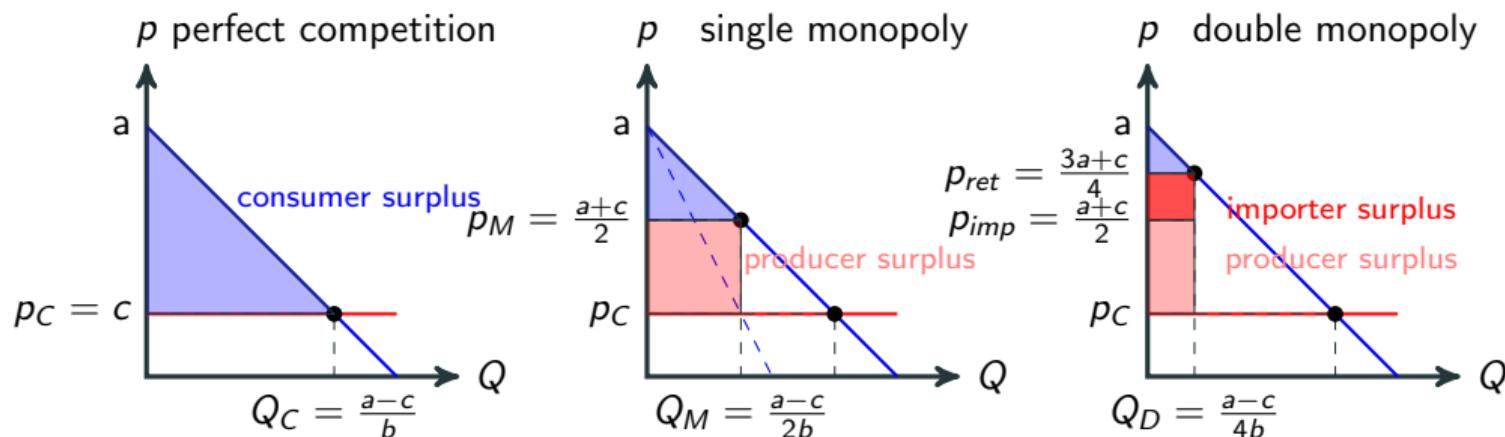
$$\Pi_{coop}^* = (p_{retail, coop}^* - c(K)) \cdot Q_{coop}^* = \frac{1}{b} \left(\frac{a - c(K)}{2} \right)^2$$

There is a welfare loss if two monopolists along the value chain don't cooperate (**double marginalisation**). What is worse than a monopoly: two monopolies.

Comparison double marginalisation

Perfect competition: no monopolies; single monopoly: importer and pipeline operator cooperate; double monopoly: double marginalisation.

Dark red: importer surplus, light red: producer surplus.



So how does this effect the investment in capacity K ?

Under non-cooperation the pipeline investor makes profit

$$\Pi_{producer}^* = \frac{1}{2b} \left(\frac{a - c(K)}{2} \right)^2$$

whereas for the same capacity, the pipeline investor makes twice as much

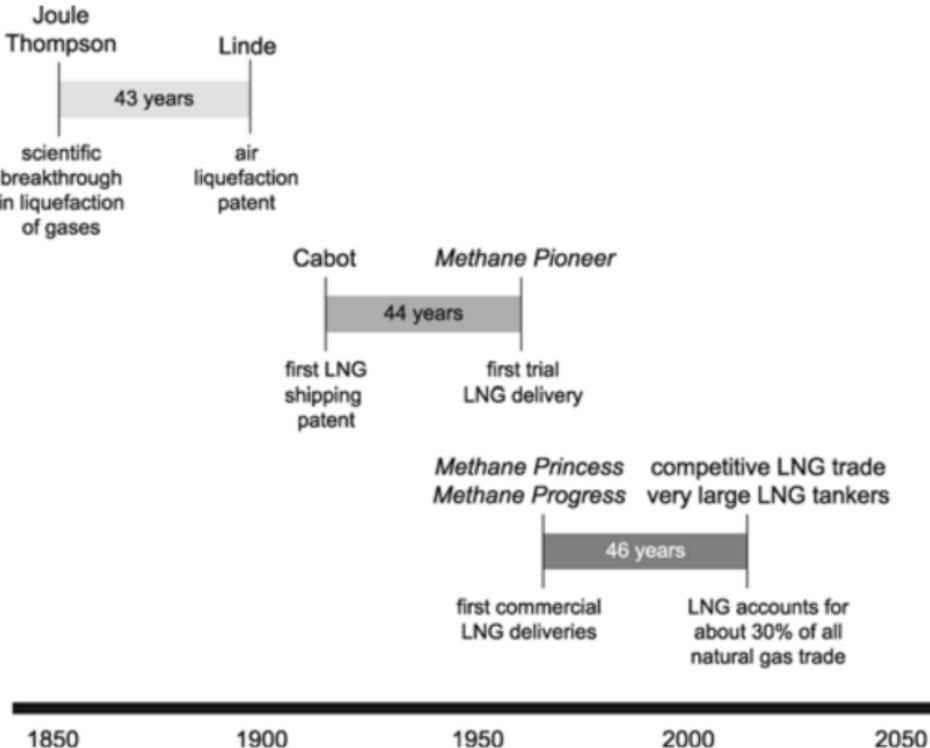
$$\Pi_{coop}^* = \frac{1}{b} \left(\frac{a - c(K)}{2} \right)^2$$

Since the pipeline investor will increase K until the marginal profit equals the marginal cost of extension, this higher profit will lead to a higher optimal capacity K .

⇒ To come closer to social optimum, should a) encourage competition and b) encourage cooperation between pipeline investor and retailer to avoid double marginalisation.

Liquified Natural Gas

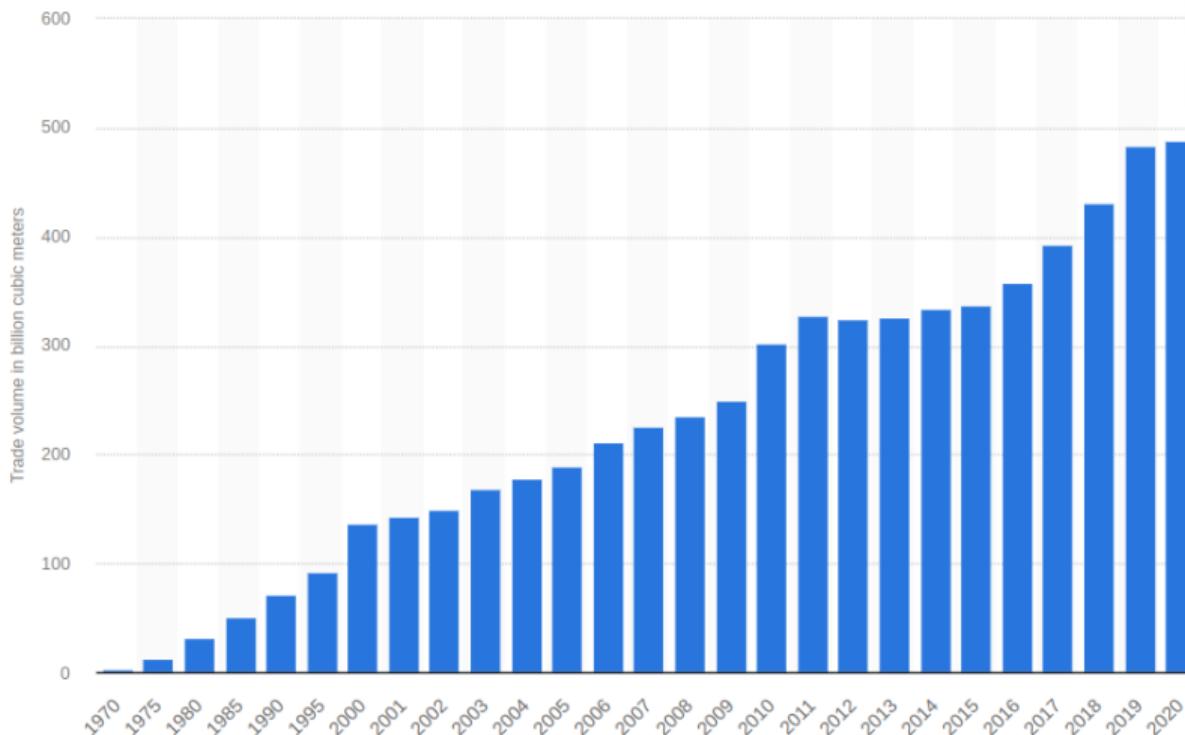
History of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)



- 1959: first (small) LNG shipment in 1959 in *Methane Pioneer*
- 1964: exports of LNG from Algeria to UK begin in tankers *Methane Princess/Progress*
- 1970s: Japan comes to dominate, because no domestic resources and pipeline imports to Japan are not possible
- 1984: Japanese imports accounted for 75% of all LNG trade
- 1999: Japan still 66% of total

History of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)

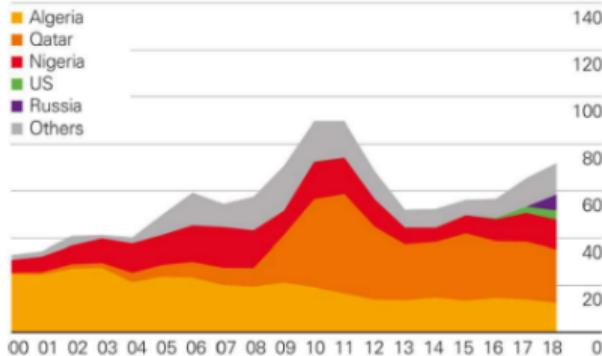
LNG really took off since 2000 due to remarkable cost reductions (larger and larger tankers).
LNG imports to Europe from the Middle East, North Africa and Asia are rising fast.



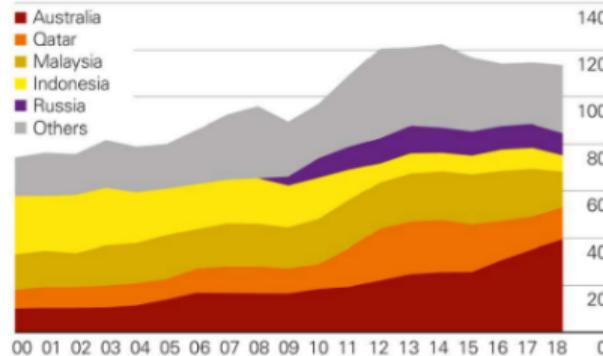
LNG imports by source (bn cubic metres per year)

Much of recent growth is coming from Asia.

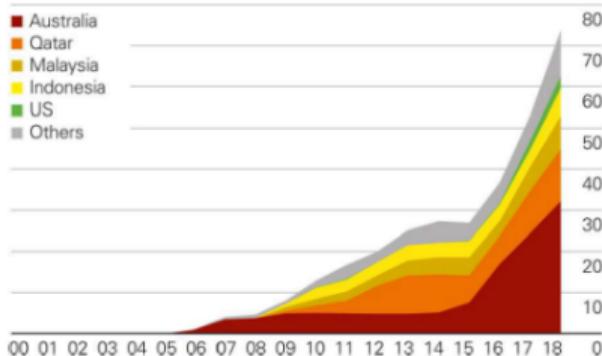
Europe



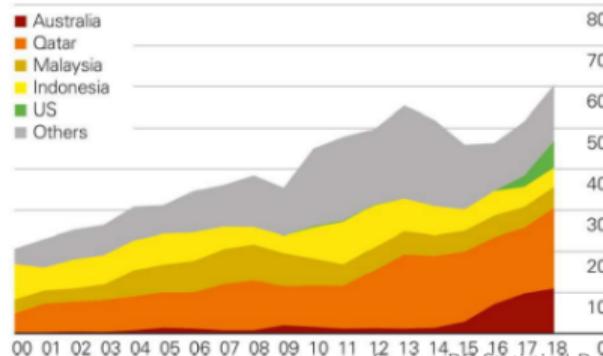
Japan



China

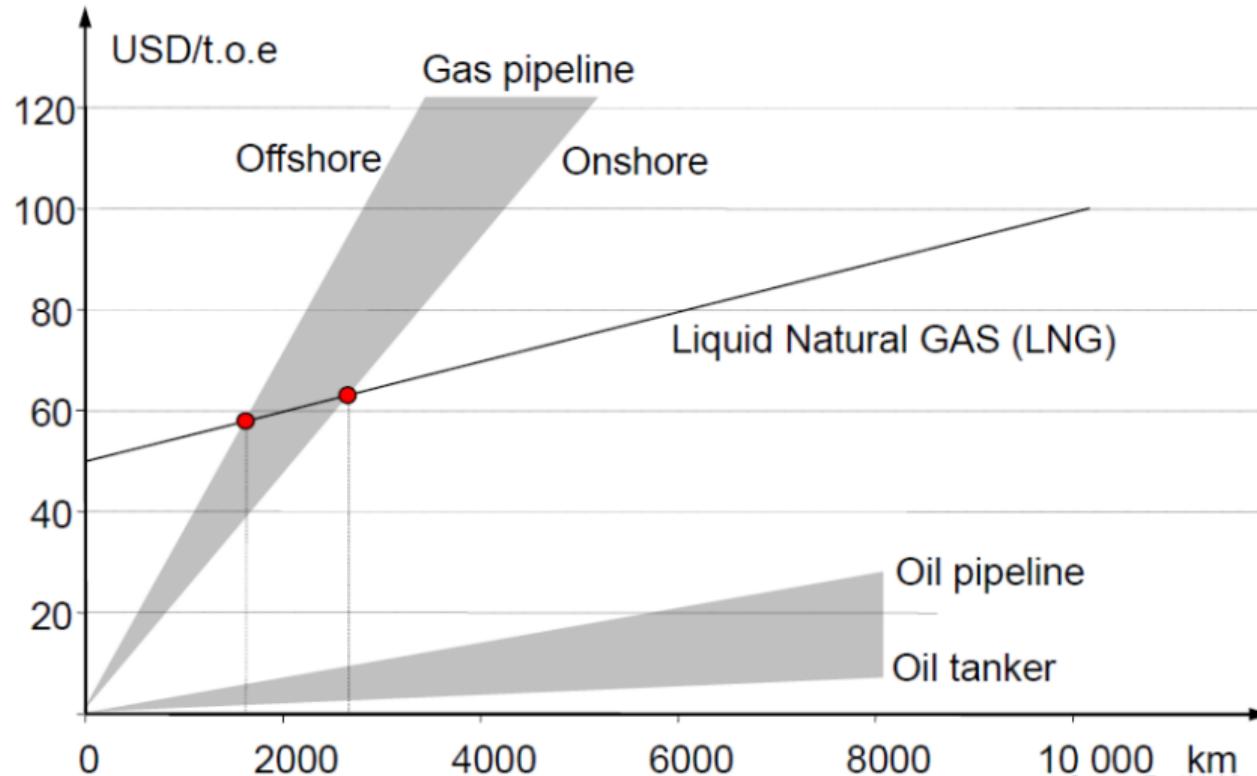


South Korea

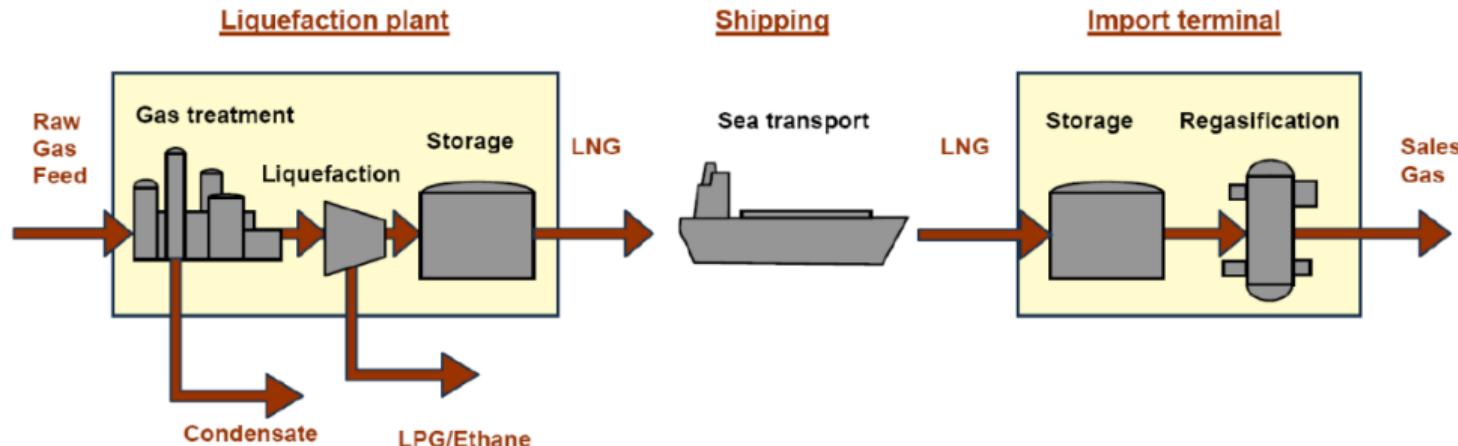


Transportation Cost of Hydrocarbons

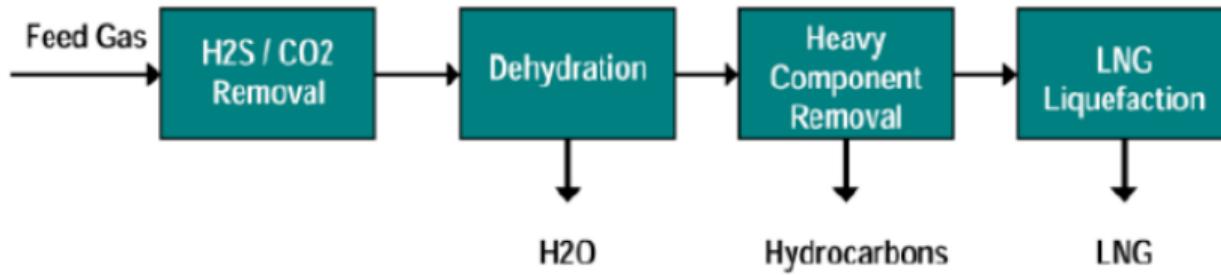
60 \$/toe is around 5 \$/MWh, 1.5 \$/MMBtu, 0.05 \$/Nm³



Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Process Chain

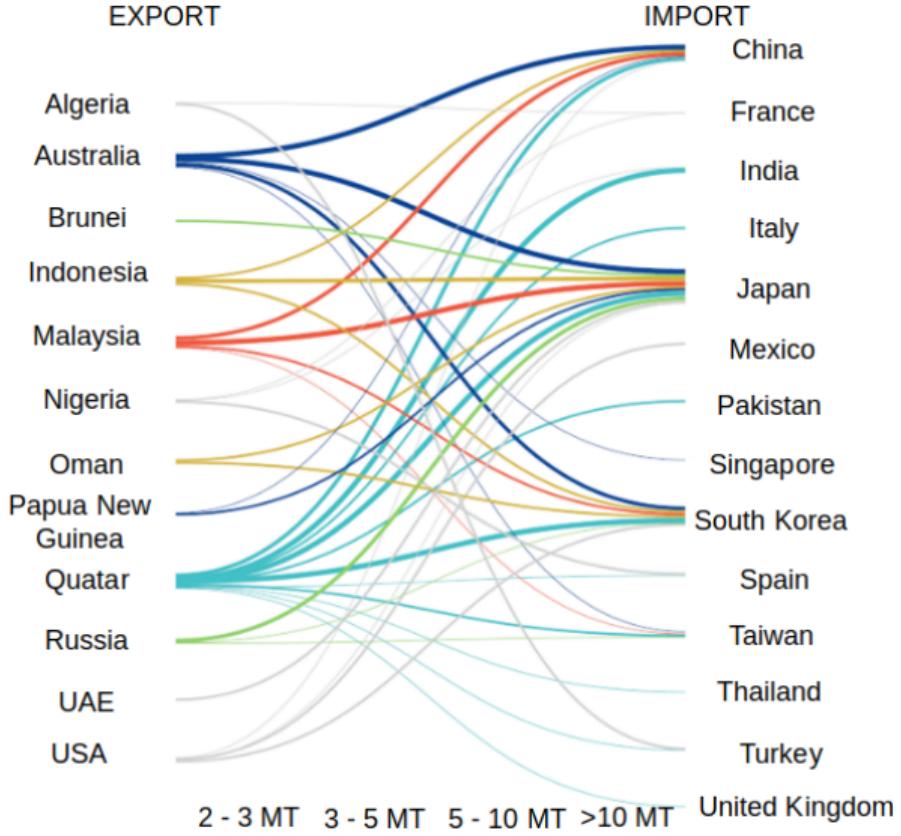


Boiling point of methane -162°C; ~600 times volume reduction

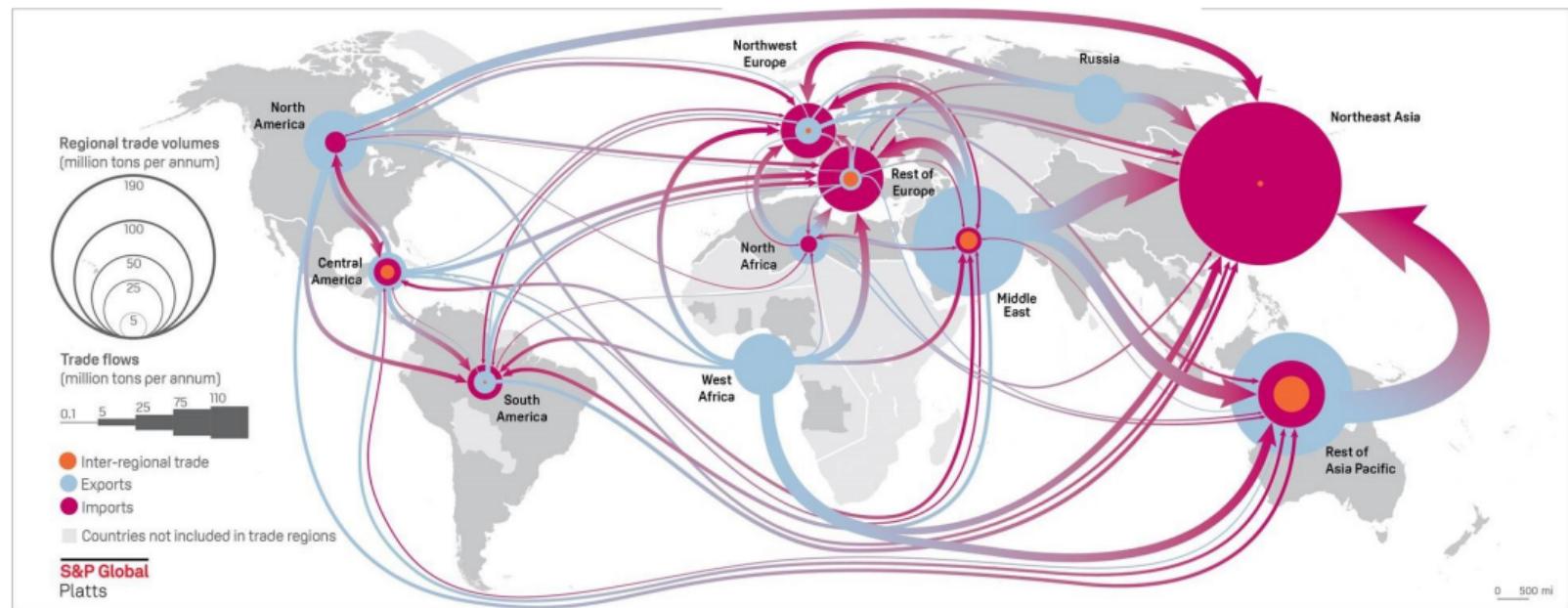


Source: BV 2009 / GIIGNL, Osaka Gas

Major LNG Trading Flows in 2018



Major LNG Trading Flows in 2018



Costs for a standard LNG chain of 3.5-4.8 mn tons/a (4.8-6.6 bn m³/a), totalling $\sim 0.06\text{€}/\text{m}^3$

Liquefaction plant

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Investment outlay | 900 M€ |
| Operating expenses | 0.04 €/m ³ |

Tanker fleet

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Investment outlay | e.g. 2 vessels with 135 kt each |
| Operating expenses | 360 M€ for both |

Regasification plant w. storage

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Investment outlay | e.g. storage 3*80k m ³ (Cartagena) |
| Operating expenses | 320 M€ |

Own gas energy requirement

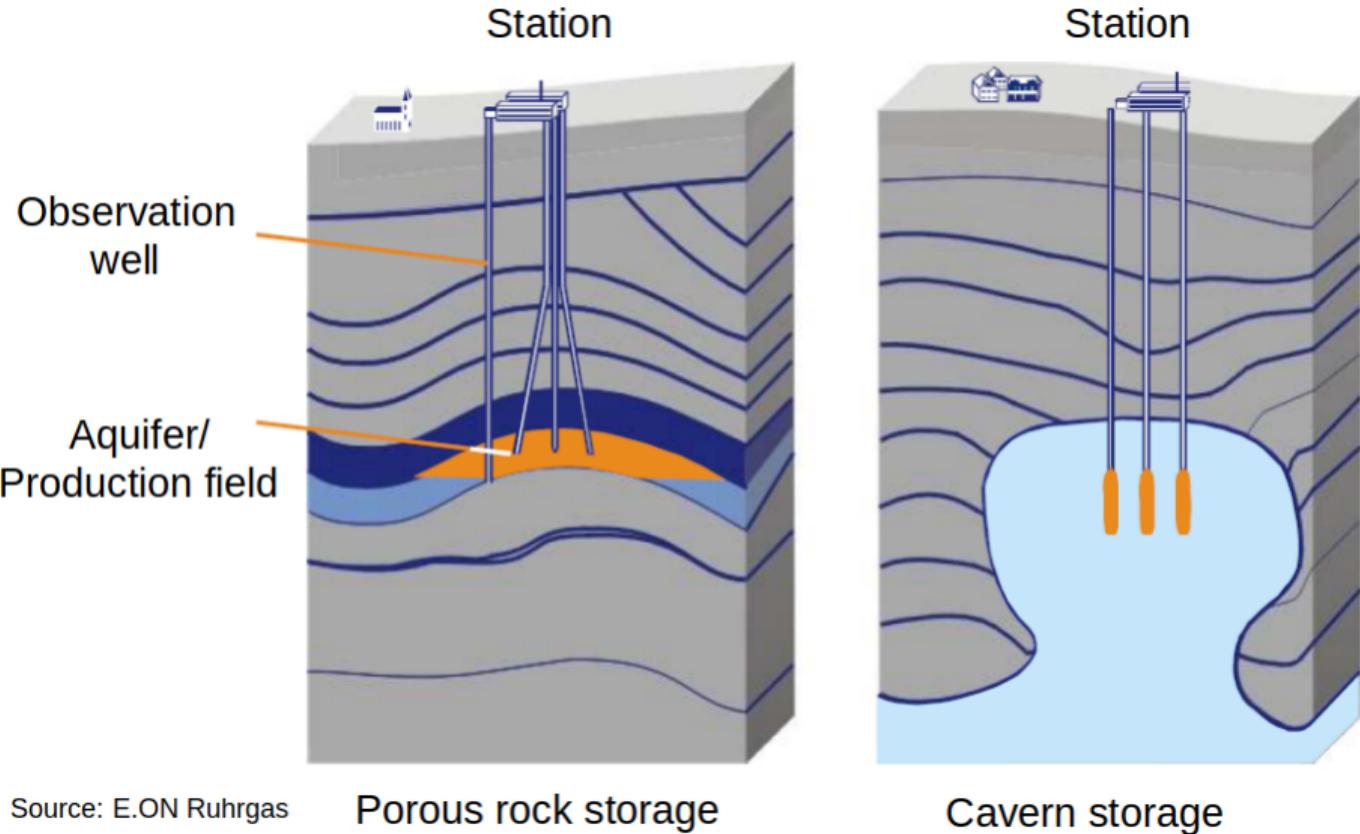
1/3 of transport gas

LNG Project Cost Comparison

| Project | Location | mtpa | Trains | Project | | | Liquefaction Plant | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------|--------|------------|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | CAPEX \$bn | \$/tpa | \$/mmbtu | % project CAPEX | CAPEX \$bn | \$/tpa | \$/mmbtu |
| Gorgon | Australia | 15.6 | 3 | 53.0 | 3,397 | 11.9 | 62% | 32.9 | 2,106 | 7.37 |
| Prelude FLNG | Timor Sea | 3.6 | 1 | 12.0 | 3,333 | 11.7 | 60% | 7.2 | 2,000 | 7.00 |
| Wheatstone | Australia | 8.9 | 2 | 34.0 | 3,820 | 13.4 | 52% | 17.7 | 1,987 | 6.95 |
| Ichthys | Australia | 8.4 | 2 | 36.0 | 4,286 | 15.0 | 45% | 16.2 | 1,929 | 6.75 |
| Queenland Curtis | Australia | 8.5 | 2 | 20.0 | 2,353 | 8.2 | 60% | 12.0 | 1,412 | 4.94 |
| PNG | PNG | 6.9 | 2 | 19.0 | 2,754 | 9.6 | 49% | 9.3 | 1,349 | 4.72 |
| Yamal | Russia | 16.6 | 3 | 27.2 | 1,639 | 5.7 | 80% | 21.8 | 1,311 | 4.59 |
| Angola LNG | Angola | 5.2 | 1 | 10.0 | 1,923 | 6.7 | 60% | 6.0 | 1,154 | 4.04 |
| Donggi-Senoro | Indonesia | 2.0 | 1 | 2.9 | 1,450 | 5.1 | 90% | 2.6 | 1,305 | 4.57 |
| Gladstone | Australia | 7.8 | 2 | 19.0 | 2,436 | 8.5 | 53% | 10.1 | 1,291 | 4.52 |
| Pacific LNG | Australia | 9.0 | 2 | 26.0 | 2,889 | 10.1 | 45% | 11.7 | 1,300 | 4.55 |
| Tangguh Expansion | Indonesia | 3.8 | 1 | 8.0 | 2,105 | 7.4 | 50% | 4.0 | 1,053 | 3.68 |
| Petronas PFLNG1 | Malaysia | 1.2 | 1 | 1.5 | 1,290 | 4.5 | 75% | 1.2 | 968 | 3.39 |
| Elba Island | USA | 2.5 | 1 | 2.3 | 924 | 3.2 | 90% | 2.1 | 832 | 2.91 |
| Petronas PFLNG2 | Malaysia | 1.5 | 1 | 1.7 | 1,100 | 3.9 | 75% | 1.2 | 825 | 2.89 |
| Freeport | USA | 15.0 | 3 | 13.3 | 887 | 3.1 | 90% | 12.0 | 799 | 2.80 |
| Corpus Christi T1-2 | USA | 9.0 | 2 | 10.4 | 1,160 | 4.1 | 90% | 9.4 | 1,044 | 3.66 |
| Corpus Christi T3 | USA | 4.5 | 1 | 3.0 | 667 | 2.3 | 100% | 3.0 | 667 | 2.33 |
| Cameron LNG | USA | 13.5 | 3 | 11.0 | 815 | 2.9 | 90% | 9.9 | 733 | 2.57 |
| Cove Point | USA | 5.3 | 1 | 4.2 | 789 | 2.8 | 90% | 3.8 | 710 | 2.48 |
| Bintulu Train 9 | Indonesia | 3.6 | 1 | 2.5 | 694 | 2.4 | 90% | 2.3 | 625 | 2.19 |
| Caribbean FLNG | TBA | 0.5 | 1 | 0.4 | 800 | 2.8 | 75% | 0.3 | 600 | 2.10 |
| Golar FLNG | Cameroon | 2.4 | 1 | 1.9 | 800 | 2.8 | 75% | 1.4 | 600 | 2.10 |
| Sabine Pass Trains 1-4 | USA | 18.0 | 4 | 11.0 | 611 | 2.1 | 90% | 9.9 | 550 | 1.93 |
| Sabine Pass Train 5 | USA | 4.5 | 1 | 3.8 | 844 | 3.0 | 100% | 3.8 | 844 | 2.96 |

- LNG trade leads to integration of regional gas markets
- LNG supply chain is more flexible
- LNG helps to develop more remote gas fields
- Diversification helps mitigate the holdup problem

Gas Storage



Source: E.ON Ruhrgas

Porous rock storage

Cavern storage

Porous rock storage

- uses existing geological underground formations (e.g. depleted oil and gas fields, aquifers)
- relatively inexpensive (but higher investment costs for aquifers)
- large storage volume, but more cushion gas required
- low injection and withdrawal rate

Cavern storage

- artificial hollows carved out in underground rock or salt formations
- higher investment
- less cushion gas required
- higher withdrawal rate; fast switching between injection and withdrawal mode
- provide short-term flexibility

LNG storage

- Insulated tanks at LNG terminals
- No cushion gas needed
- High injection/withdrawal rates

Gas tanks

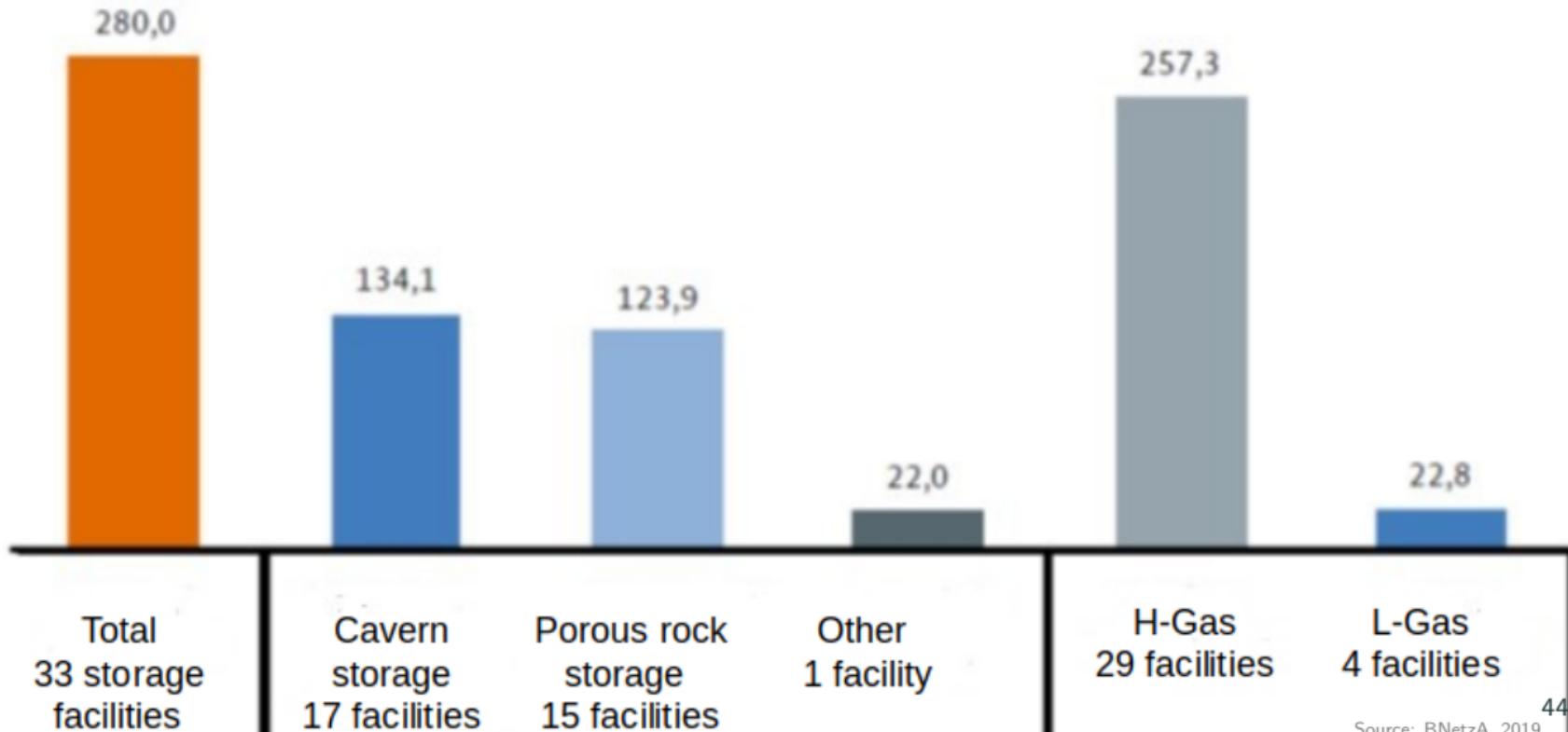
- Low or high pressure
- Not economical for high volumes
- Local storage

Line pack

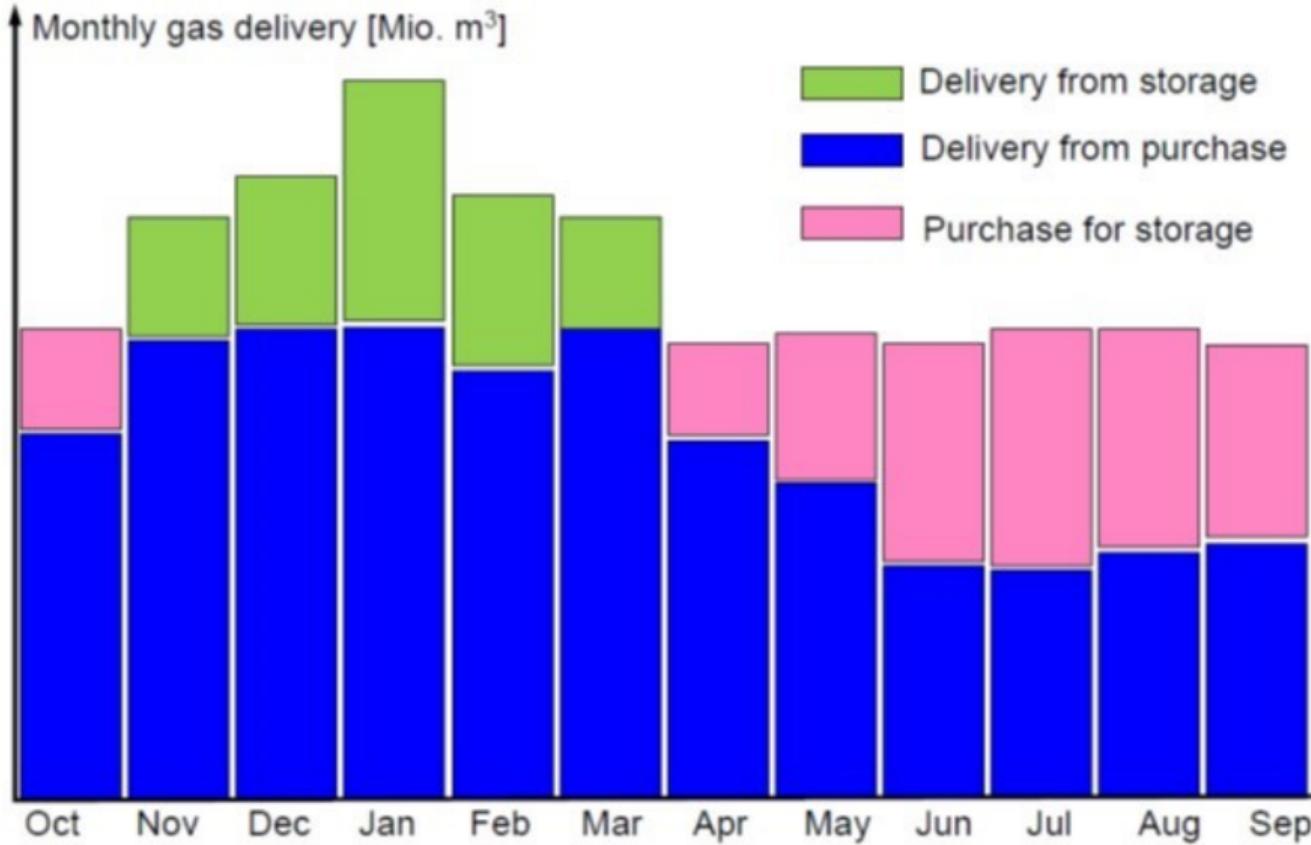
- Gas stored inside pipeline through increased pressure
- Used to balance daily demand fluctuations

Gas storage facilities in Germany

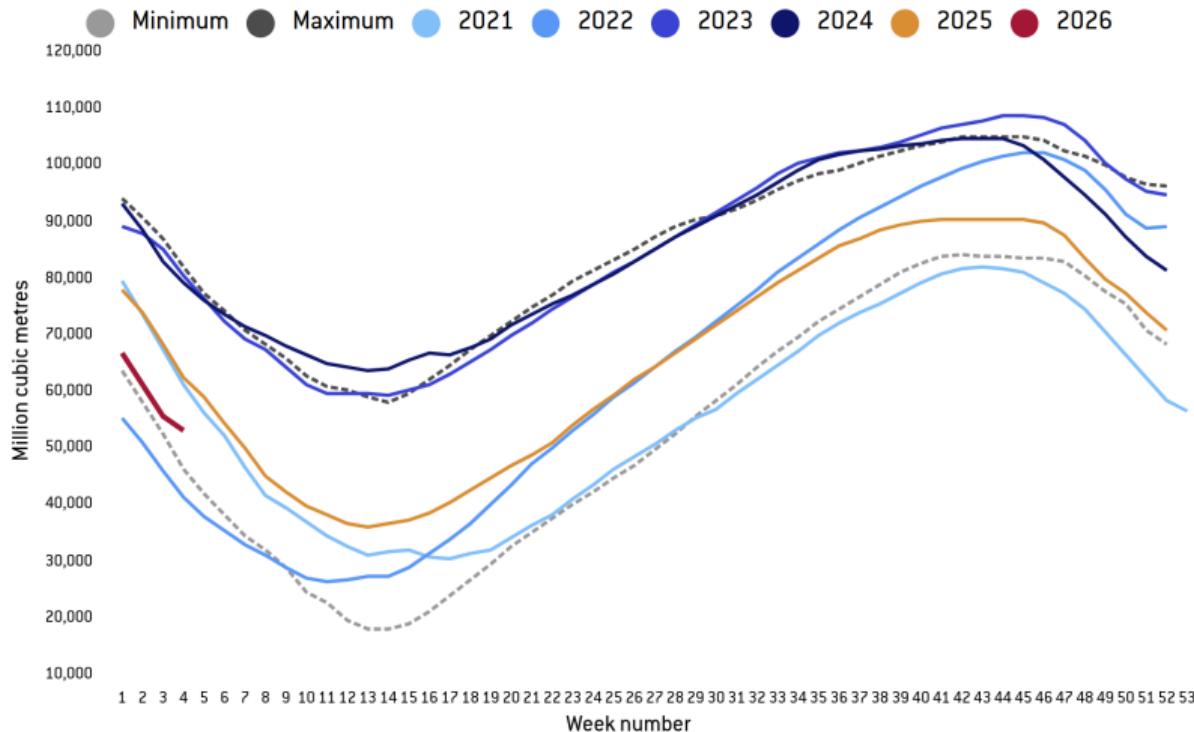
Max. usable working gas volume on 31.12.2018, in TWh. See [AGSI website](#) for latest.



Merchant Use of a Gas Storage



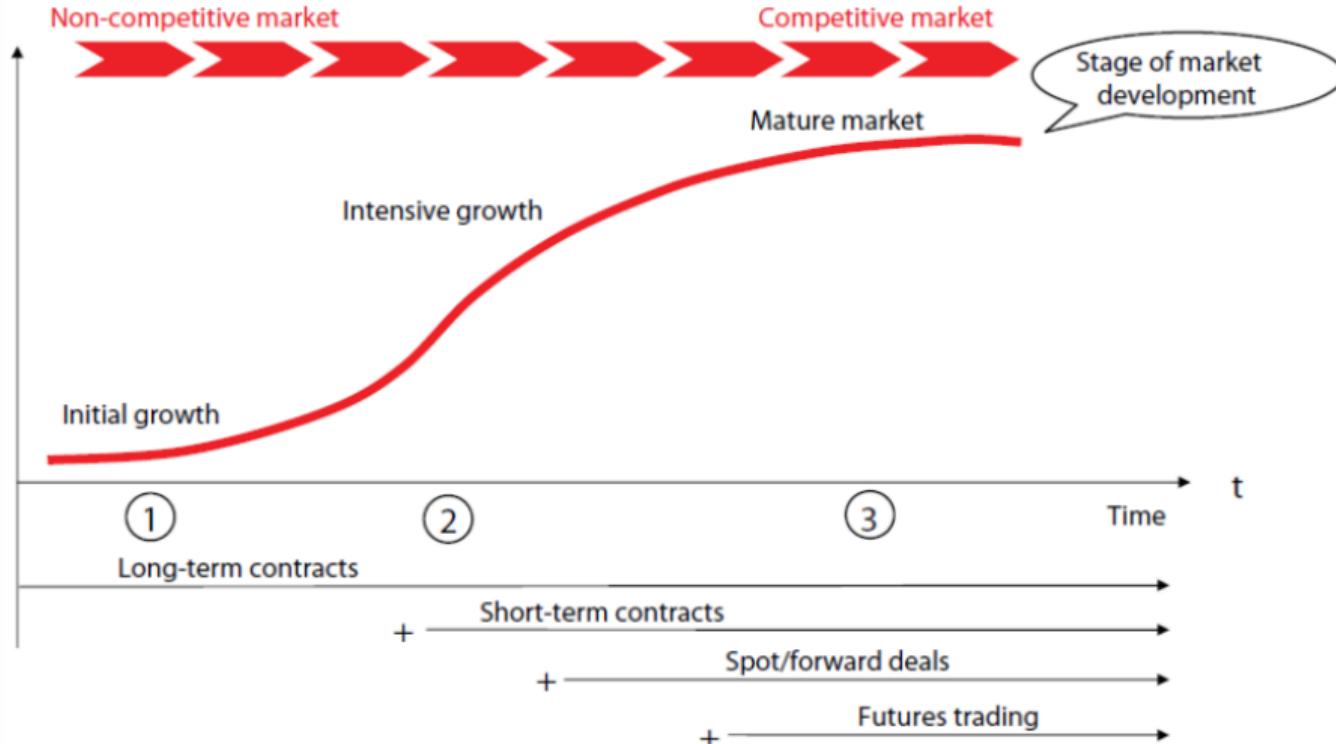
The filling level follows seasonal patterns; 2021-3 have been exceptional due to cold spring in 2021, low domestic production and low Russian supplies.



- Storage buffers supply and (daily & seasonally fluctuating) demand
- Value of storage is determined by the cost of alternative sources of flexibility (transportation and capacity charges): production swings, take-or-pay, interruptible contracts, spot market
- **System value** from ability to inject a certain amount of gas in summer and withdraw it in winter
- Compensated by price during withdrawal minus price during injection, i.e. arbitrage with **seasonal spread** (difference in seasonal price)
- Ability to utilise the storage volume more than once (inject and withdraw gas) during the season to profit from short-term price volatility

Wholesale Markets for Gas

Dynamics of Gas Market Development



① Pricing mechanism's development stages:

- ① - cost-plus
- ② - escalation formulas (based on alternative fuels prices)
- ③ - based on futures prices (commodities markets)

The European Union's Third Energy Package, which entered into force in 2009, sought to promote an internal gas and electricity market.

The components included ownership unbundling (generation and supply from transmission) and a (non-binding) push to move away from long-term contracts to spot pricing in the gas market.

Why?

LTC prices are intransparent and showed big differences between regions. It was hoped liberalisation would encourage competition, create more market liquidity and bring down prices for consumers.

LTCs in decline for past 15 years; note that LTCs not just for pipeline import, but also LNG.

| | Before 1990 | 1991–2007 | 2008–2014 | 2015–2018 |
|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of contracts | 31 | 121 | 28 | 18 |
| Total ACQ, billion cubic metres/year (bcm/y) | 109 | 292 | 98 | 54 |
| Average contract duration, years | 23 | 18 | 15 | 14 |
| Share of pipeline contracts | 68% | 53% | 50% | 22% |
| EU average gas consumption, bcm/y | 345 ^a | 440 | 472 | 444 |
| Share of total ACQ in consumption | 32% | 66% | 21% | 12% |

ACQ annual contract quantity

^a1990 consumption

In a world without vertical integration of (foreign) gas supplier and (domestic) gas importer, **long-term gas contracts** necessary in order to secure cash-flows required for pipeline (and other gas infrastructure) investments.

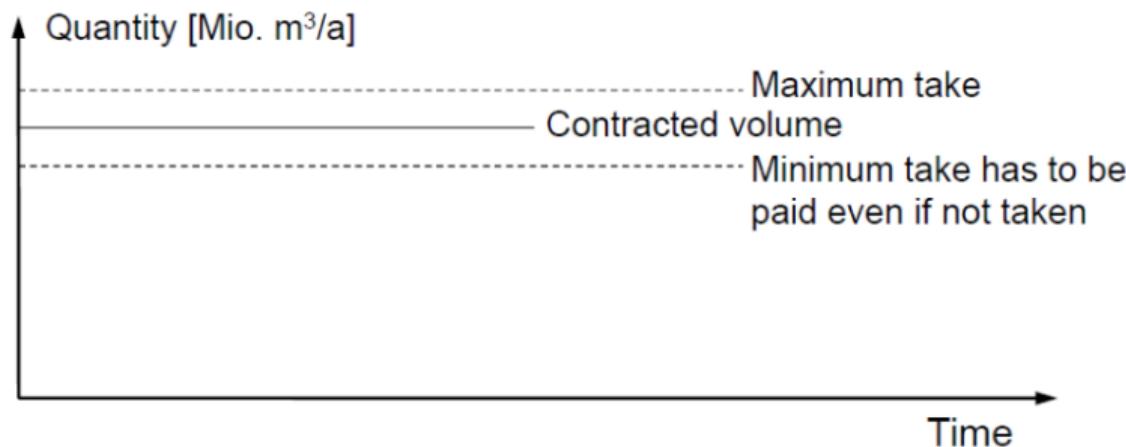
Selection of Gazprom's long term contracts 2007:

- E.ON Ruhrgas – until 2035, 20 bcm/year
- Wintershall – until 2030
- ENI – 2035, 3 bcm/year (Italy)

Gazprom as shareholder of European gas companies 2007:

- Wingas (50% minus 1 share, 100% since 2013): 2000 km Gas transmission lines, Natural gas storages in Germany with 2 bcm gas volume
- Europolgaz (48%), Eesti Gas (37.2%), Lietuvos Dujos (37.1%), Latvijas Gaze (34%), Gasum (25%), VNG (10.52%), Interconnector (10%)

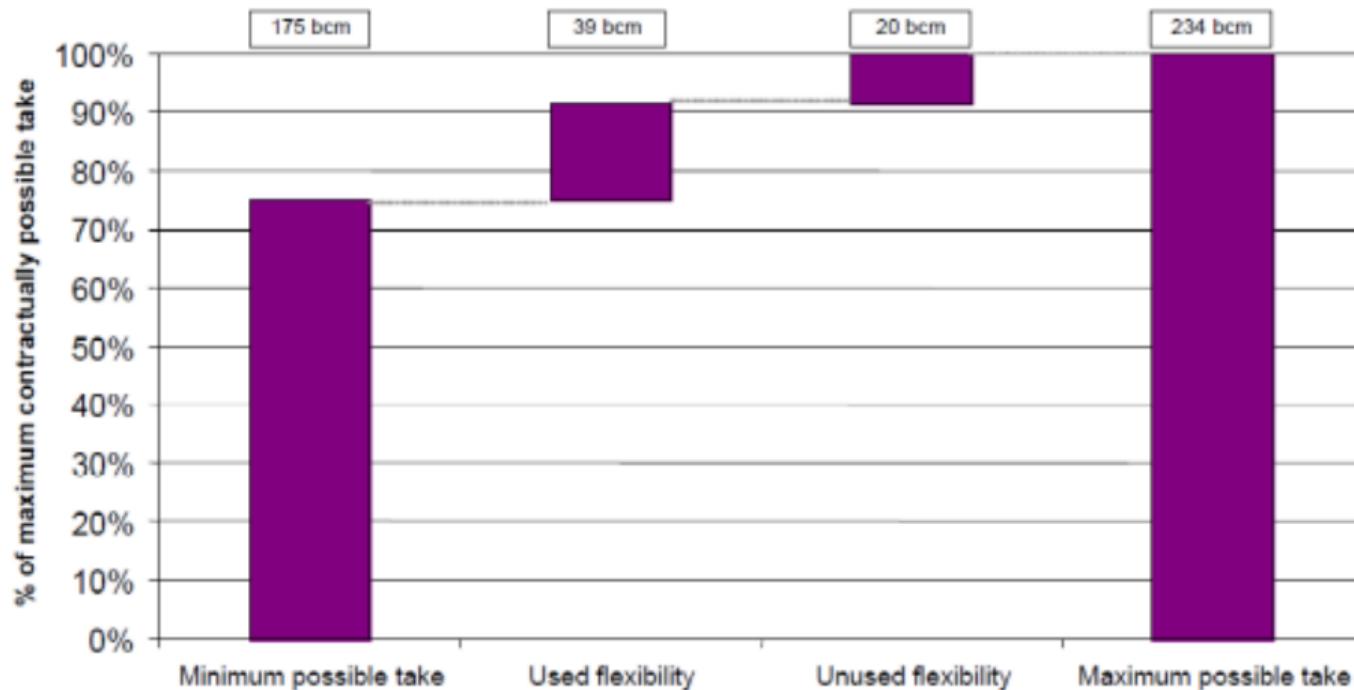
A long-term contract (LTC) must specify both **volume** and **price**. Both are associated with risks. For a **take-or-pay** contract, the **volume risk** is taken by the importer. If they use less than the contracted **minimum take**, they have to pay for it anyway.



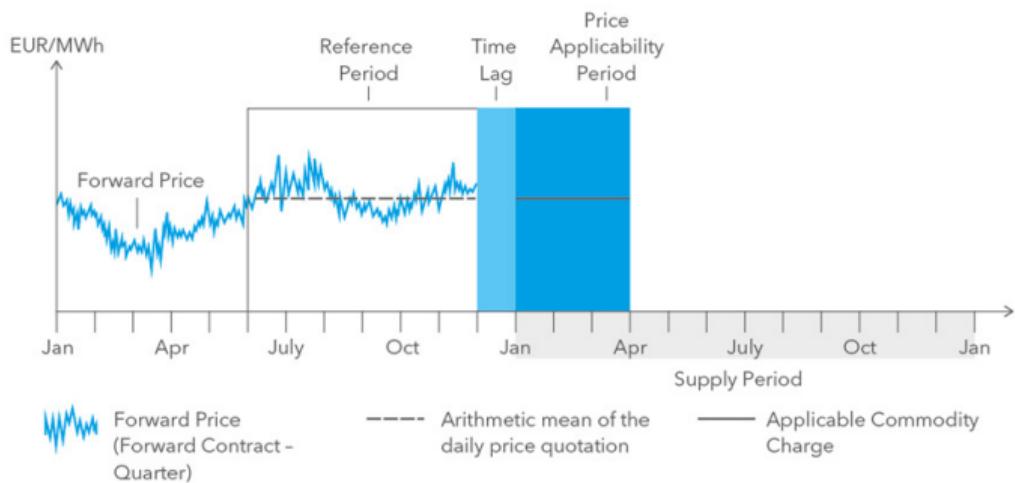
The **price risk** is taken by the exporter, who may **index the price** according to the heating oil price (common up to 2010s) or to spot market prices (more common today).

Volume Flexibility Under Long Term Contracts

Import contracts with producers allow incumbents large flexibility to physically balance their portfolios



Price-indexing refers to determining the price of long-term contracts based on other indices.



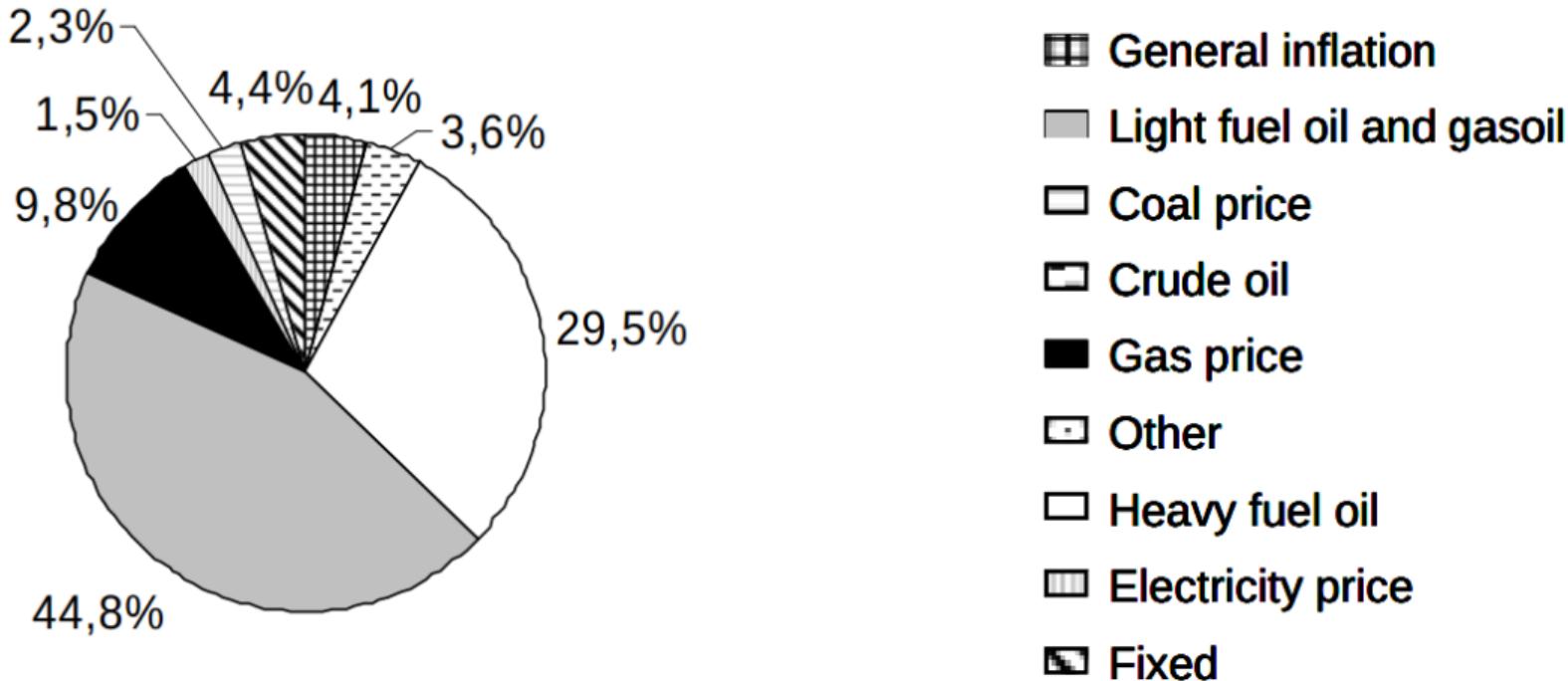
- The **Reference Period** in this example adds up to six months. The value of the gas indexed commodity charge is the result of the arithmetic average mean of the daily price quotation for the forward contract "Quarter" within this six months (average price).
- The **Time Lag** in this example is one month.
- The **Price Applicability Period** in this example adds up to three months respectively a "Quarter".

This example shows a 6/1/3 rule (6/3/3 is more typical for long-term gas contracts).

- 6 months: period over which we take average for price.
- 1 month: time lag to allow for calculation.
- 3 months: delivery period to which price applies.

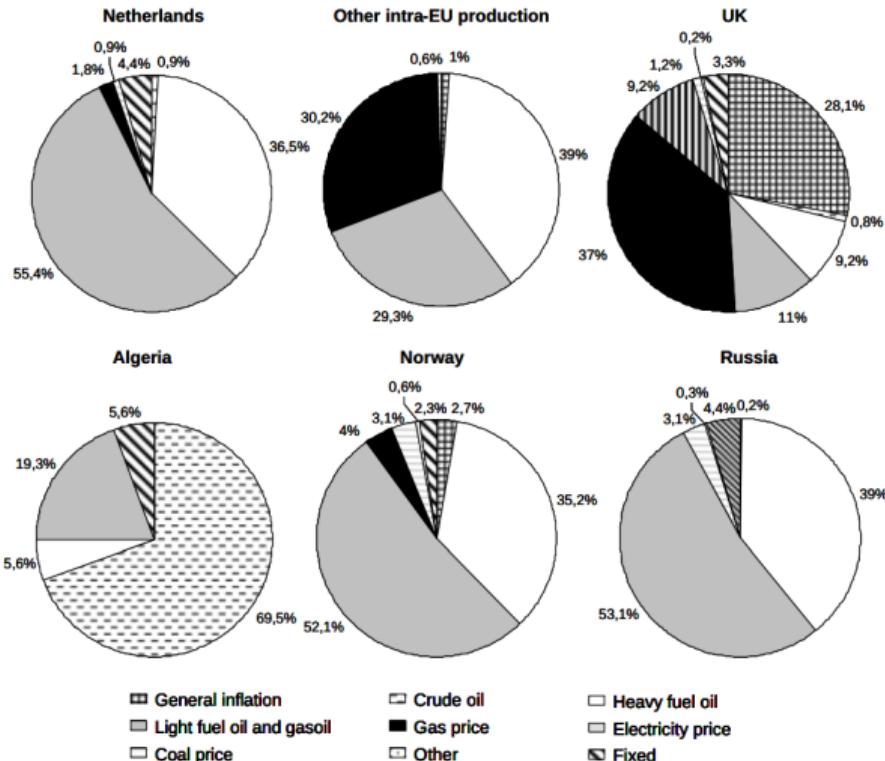
In past, gas often linked to oil

In 2004, oil-derivatives dominated the price indexation in the European Union:



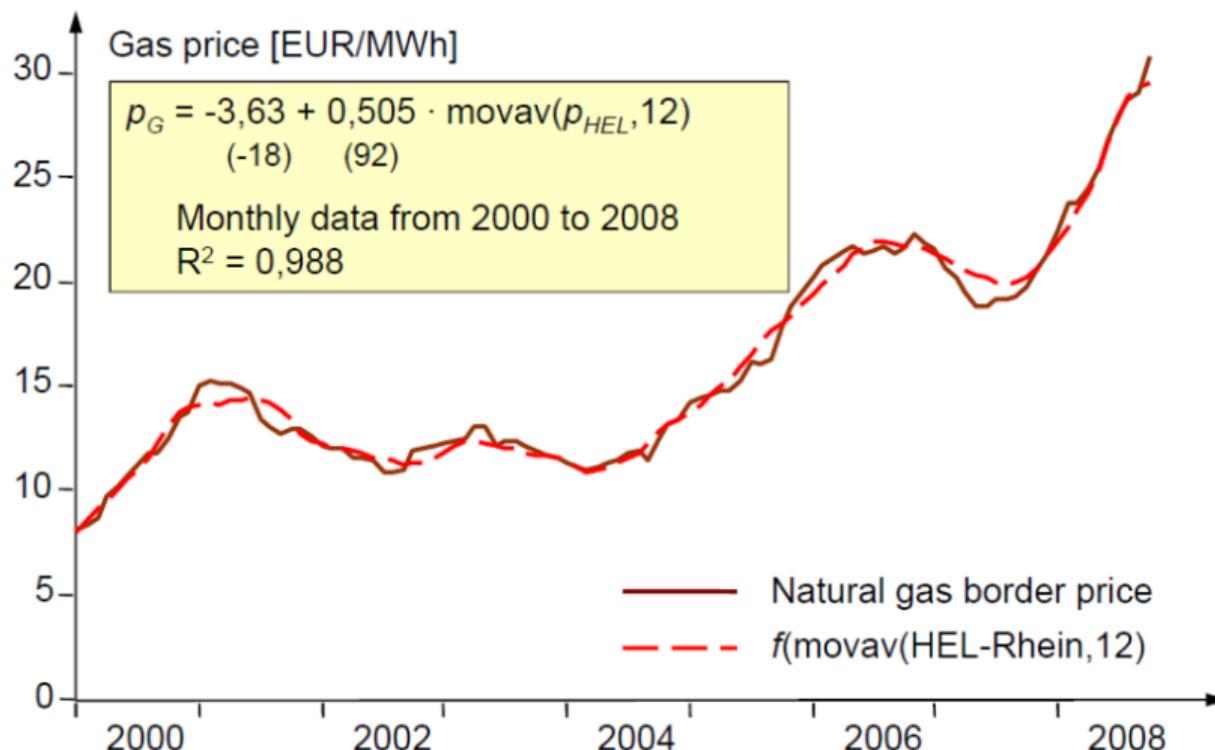
In past, gas often linked to oil

In 2004, there was a wide variety of products used for indexation in different regions.



In Germany in past, strong coupling with heating oil

Because heating oil was a substitute for gas, the light heating oil Rheinschiene (HEL-Rhein) was used.



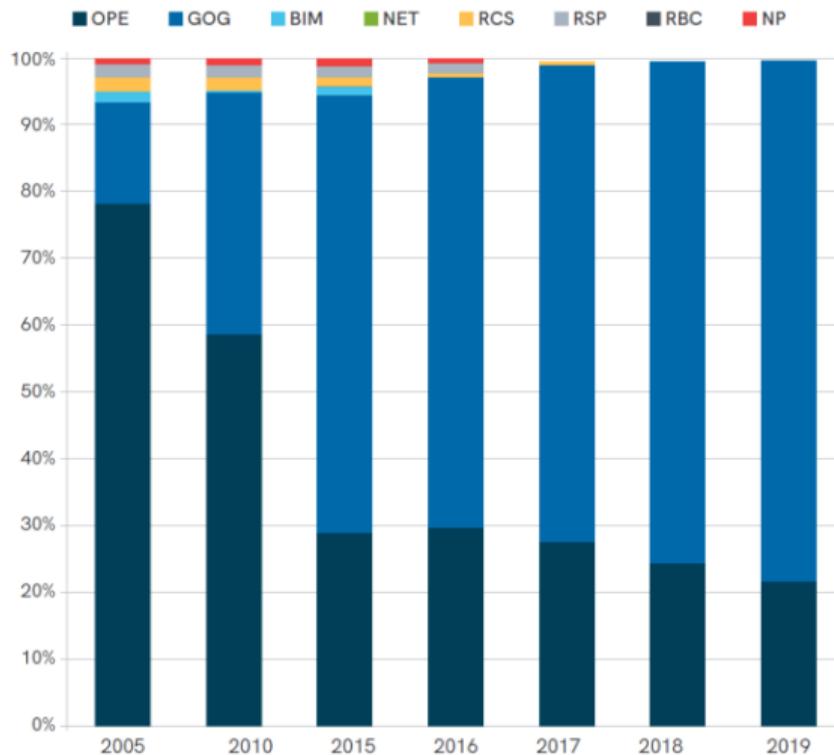
Today: stronger link to gas spot prices

But since early 2010s more contracts are linked to gas spot prices such as the TTF virtual hub in the Netherlands. (BAFA is Germanborder import price.)



Move from oil-indexing to gas-on-gas competition

EUROPE PRICE FORMATION 2005 TO 2019



- Move from oil-price-indexing (OPE) to gas-on-gas competition (GOG), e.g. based on hub pricing at TTF
- Share of oil-indexation in Europe dropped from 78% in 2005 to 22% in 2019

Non-discriminatory (effective and transparent) access to gas transportation systems is a crucial prerequisite for a liquid market for natural gas.

Unbundling for gas TSOs (see EU Gas Directive 2009/73/EC): Transmission and distribution activities are separated from the rest of the value chain

- Ownership unbundling
- Independent system operator (ISO)
- Independent transmission operator (ITO)

Certification to ensure compliance with unbundling requirements for transmission system owner or TSO controlled by person(s) from third country(ies)

‘Gazprom clause’

Point-to-point system (used in Germany until 2006)

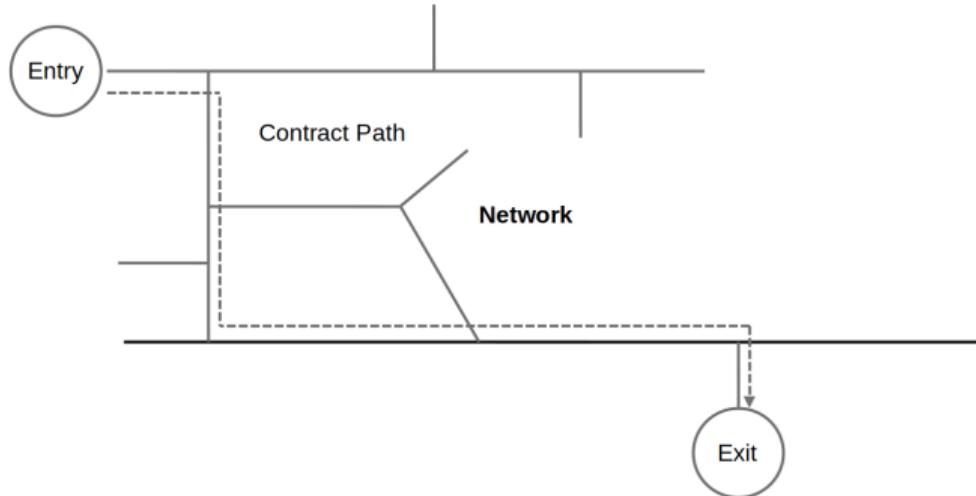
- gas traders book specific transportation route from an entry to an exit point
- distance-based or flatrate fee
- somewhat intransparent, high costs

Entry-exit system (used in Germany since 2006)

- entry and exit capacities are booked separately
- entry fee and exit fee – no distance-related fee
- traders with entry capacities can sell gas to traders with exit capacities
- each exit point can be supplied from any entry point

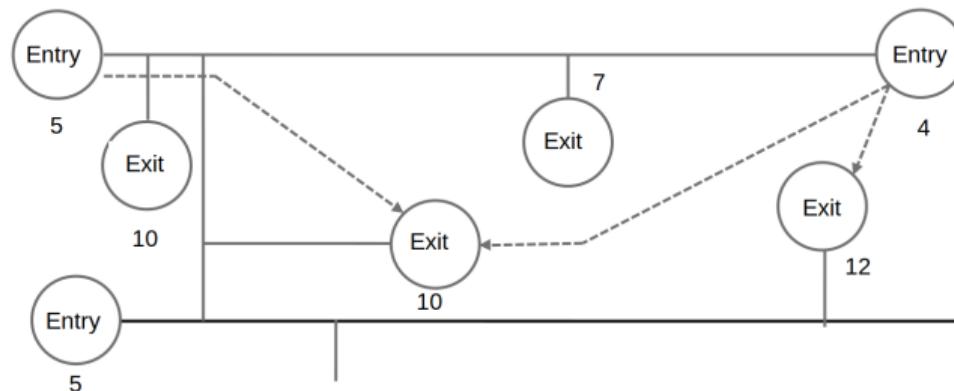
Entry-exit system enables wholegas gas trading on virtual trading point (**virtual hub**) / market area level: gas is traded independently of its location in a market area.

- Shippers specify entry and exit points and the transportation path.
- Actual physical flow may differ from the contracted path.
- Entry and exit capacities cannot be separated from each other and from the gas (commodity) transaction.
- Led to intransparency and high costs.



Entry-exit model (used in Germany since 2006)

- Shippers book entry and exit capacity independently from each other.
- No need to specify transportation path or distance.
- Contracts for entry and exit capacities are independent from each other and from commodity transactions.
- Entry and exit tariffs are set independently for each entry/exit point
- All network operators in a network zone cooperate and set tariffs on a cost-reflective basis.



Physical gas hubs where many pipelines meet e.g.

- Henry Hub (USA) – connecting point of 14 pipelines
- Zeebrugge (Belgium)
- Baumgarten (CEGH, Austria)

Virtual gas hubs for trading, e.g.

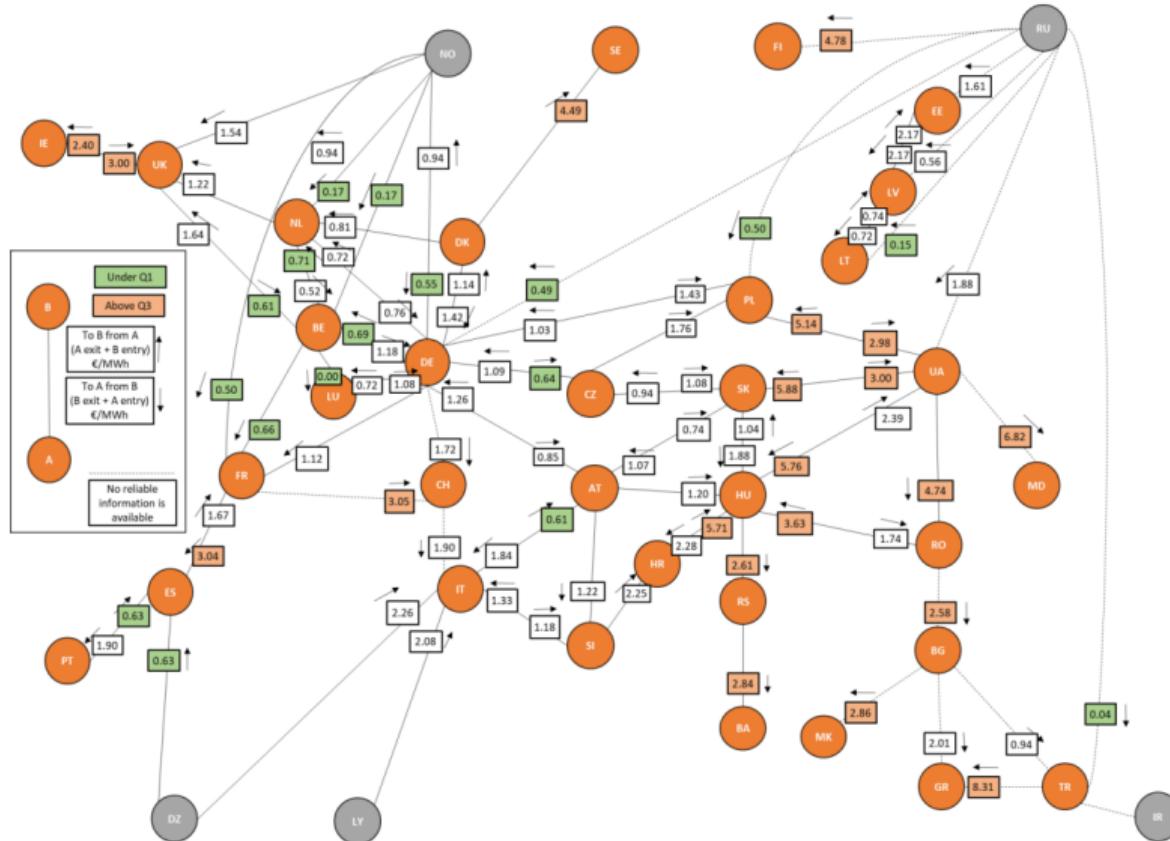
- NBP, National Balancing Point (UK)
- TTF, Title Transfer Facility (Netherlands)

(Cf. electricity grids with physical substations versus bidding zones.)

European gas regions, markets and hubs



Transmission tariffs in August 2017



Hydrogen and CO₂ network

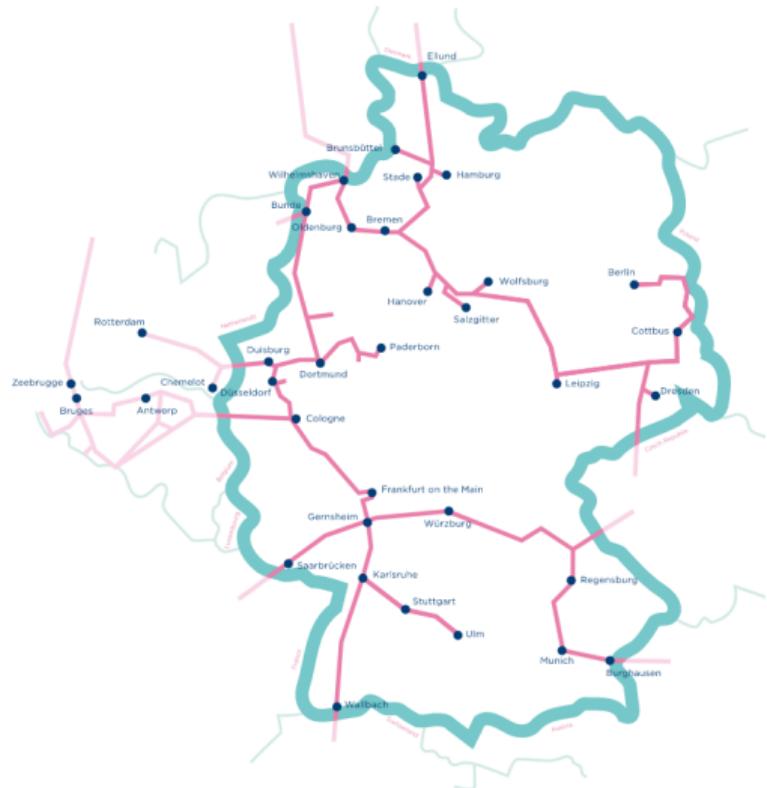
German planned Wasserstoff-Kernnetz: hydrogen core network



- As of 2024 hydrogen is only used within industrial facilities (like refineries and ammonia production), there is no hydrogen market.
- There are some small-diameter pipelines of a few 100 kms.
- Clean hydrogen (green or blue) could be used in the future for steel production, ammonia, other chemicals and for power generation.
- The gas transmission network operators (FNB Gas) have suggested a plan for a **Kernnetz** (left), completed by 2032. First 400 km section commissioned end of 2025.

- Cost of the Kernnetz is estimate to be €19.8 billion, length around 9,700 km, of which 60% is **repurposed gas pipelines**.
- Network operators get 6.69% guaranteed return on equity.
- Since it is unclear how much supply or demand there will be, the network charges could be very high at the beginning (high costs divided by small demand), so the network charges will be capped (level is not clear).
- Money needed above the network charges will be paid out of a separate government-run account.
- If there is money left in the account in 2055, government will cover 76%, network operators 24%.

Potential carbon dioxide network for Germany



- A Startnetz to transport up to 50 MtCO₂ per year in Germany is planned by OGE.
- CO₂ is transported cold and under pressure as a liquid.
- CO₂ networks already existing in the United States, primarily to transport CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery.