FIGURES ON THE GAS MARKET 2017: CLASSIFICATION OF NATURAL GAS CONSUMERS AND ACTIVE SUPPLIERS PER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Since January 1st 2004, VREG sets up a monthly survey of the distribution network operators concerning the number of access points. Details about the delivered quantities per supplier are only requested once a year with respect to the previous calendar year.

The published figures only involve the Flemish region and they are limited to the activities on the distribution network. They will be updated every three months.

AMR stands for automated meter read, which involves the major electricity customers whose meters are read remotely on a daily basis. A special adjusted meter records electricity consumption per 15 minutes and gas consumption per hour. In this case a physical meter reading is not required.

Table 1: Classification of natural gas end-users Table on December 1st 2017

Category	Number	Percentage
Automatically meter read customers - AMR	799	0,04%
Monthly meter read customer - MMR	10.533	0,49%
Professional, yearly meter read customers	301.544	13,89%
Domestic customers	1.857.734	85,59%
Total	**2.170.610**	**100%**

MMR stands for monthly meter read. In these companies meters are read every month by a meter reader.

A household consumer is legally defined as an EAN number where at least one natural person is residing. In practice, for privacy reasons neither suppliers nor network operators have permanent access to residence details. The supplier determines whether or not a customer belongs to the household category. If the contract is signed by a natural person, the access point is considered to be a household customer.

Minor shifts between these four categories are possible from month to month. Each month new EANs are created (for example for new construction) and existing EANs disappear (for example after demolition). A major increase or decrease in the number of access points in a specific category can to a certain degree affect percentages.

Table 2: Number of active suppliers per distribution network and the number of access points in each territory related to the total number of access points (%) on December 1st 2017 (deliveries to end users natural gas)

Distribution Network Operator gas	Number of active suppliers	% access points
ENEXIS	11	0,05%
GASELWEST	28	13,76%
IMEA	26	10,90%
IMEWO	29	18,54%
INFRAX WEST	25	2,52%
INTER-ENERGA	28	11,25%
INTERGEM	27	9,09%
IVEG	26	3,51%
IVEKA	28	12,33%
IVERLEK	29	15,96%
SIBELGAS	25	2,09%
Total	**282**	**100,00%**