National energy efficiency
monitoring report of Trinidad and Tobago

Delena Indar

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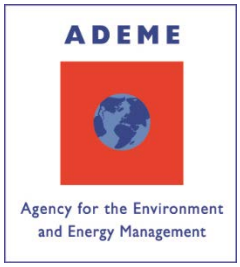

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Contents

Summary 5

I. Introduction 7
A. Background 7
B. Objectives 8
C. Data collection and sources 8

II. The background to energy efficiency 11

III. Energy consumption and intensity trends 15
A. Economic trends 15
B. Primary and final energy consumption 17
C. Primary and final energy intensities 20

IV. Energy efficiency trends in the power generation and energy sector 25

V. Energy efficiency trends in industry 27

VI. Energy efficiency trends in households 31

VII. Energy efficiency trends in transport 37

VIII. Energy efficiency trends in services 41

IX. Energy consumption in agriculture 45

X. Conclusion 49

Bibliography 51

Figures

Figure 1 Stacked share of petroleum and non-petroleum industry 15
Figure 2 GDP structure, 2000–2015 16
Figure 3 Growth rate of sectors contributing to GDP 17
Figure 4 Growth in primary and final energy consumption, 2000-2015 19
Figure 5 Primary energy consumption by sector, 2000 19
Figure 6 Changes in fuel mix in final consumption 20
Figure 7 Trend in primary and final energy intensity 21
Figure 8 Trends in primary energy intensity decomposition 21
Figure 9 Visualisation of primary intensity variations, 2000–2015 22
Figure 10 Variations in sectoral intensities 22
Figure 11 Role of structural changes on final intensity 23
Figure 12 Trends in value added, energy consumption, electricity consumption and sectoral intensity of industry, 2000–2015 28
Figure 13 Natural gas utilization (excluding LNG), 2015 29
Figure 14 Trends in energy consumption, private consumption and households 31
Figure 15 Specific energy consumption per household 32
Figure 16 Household specific energy consumption by main end-use 33
Figure 17 Distribution of energy consumption by end-use 33
Figure 18 Trends in household ownership of electrical appliances 34
Figure 19 Number of cars/1000 inhabitants, 2015 37
Figure 20 Variations in energy consumption (transport), 2000–2015 38
Figure 21 Decomposition of road consumption variation, 2010-2015 39
Figure 22 Value added of services to GDP, 2000–2015 41
Figure 23 Value added of services to GDP by subsector, 2000, 2010, 2015 42
Figure 24 Trends in GDP, final and electricity consumption, 2005, 2010, 2015 42
Figure 25 Trends in value added, consumption and intensity, 2000-2015 43
Figure 26 Distribution of electricity by sub-sector, 2005 and 2015 44
Figure 27 Share of value added of agriculture in GDP 45
Figure 28 Electricity consumption of agriculture by sub-sector 46

Diagrams

Diagram 1 Data sources 9
Diagram 2 Energy flows in a country 18

Summary

Trinidad and Tobago is dependent on its oil and gas sector to support its economy and society. However, given the challenge of climate change, small economies of scale, and increased economic, social and environmental vulnerability, strategies are needed to ensure long-term sustainable development. A key aspect of this is greater levels of energy efficiency, which would allow for energy security in the long term, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and increased revenue and cost savings.

Trinidad and Tobago is unique in the sense of low energy prices, high per-capita energy consumption, lack of energy efficiency standards and low awareness regarding energy efficiency. Therefore, understanding trends in the usage of energy is necessary in order to craft appropriate policies and also plays an important role in ensuring the success of such initiatives.

In an effort to correct the deficiency of energy efficiency initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), developed a Database of Energy Efficiency Indicators (BIEE) Programme for the Caribbean. An aim of the Programme is to create a database of indicators that measure the performance of energy efficiency policies in participating countries in seven sectors.

Assembly of the database involved the treatment of information at both an aggregate and sectoral level in the sectors of macro-economy, energy, industry, transport, households, services and agriculture for in-depth interpretation of indicators. This document is therefore the first national report containing recent trends in energy efficiency that have emerged from the BIEE Project in the Caribbean, specifically derived from the newly populated database.

In this report, Chapter I introduces the methodology of the BIEE; Chapter II discusses the background to energy efficiency in Trinidad and Tobago. Trends in overall primary and final energy intensities are discussed in Chapter III. Chapters IV to VIII discuss the varying trends in energy and electricity consumption as well as sectoral intensities.

Trends in the data allowed for analysis according to homogenous periods, indicating that in many cases energy intensities had faster growth rates in 2000 – 2008, as compared to 2008 – 2015. In each chapter, sectoral analyses utilize the value-added share to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), energy consumption and where possible, energy consumption by end-use to showcase trends in energy intensity.

The analysis allows for guidance in terms of crafting policy based on statistics, and therefore underscores the need for improved data coverage and subsequent monitoring of policies which have been weak in the past. The database is a much-needed tool that allows for the harmonization of data, but also highlights gaps in data collection especially by end-uses in the residential sector and by branches in industry, which has proven to be the most energy-intensive sector.