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## New light on primary industries' energy use

Businesses in New Zealand's primary industries used 42,288 terajoules of energy in 2008, Statistics New Zealand said today. This is roughly equivalent to the electricity used by 1.5 million households in a year, or filling up a 40-litre petrol tank of a small car 80,000 times every day for a year. This energy is approximately 9 percent of the total energy supplied to final consumers in New Zealand. This and other energy use statistics from the New Zealand Energy Use Survey are released today, filling a gap in information about energy use in New Zealand.

The survey is designed to collect information on the use of electricity, liquid fuels, and other energy sources throughout the economy. It also collected information on energy saving practices. In 2008/09, its first year, the survey covered businesses in primary industries including agriculture, fishing, forestry, and mining. Other industries will be surveyed in the following two years.

Of the primary industries, mining (including petroleum extraction and exploration, quarrying, and services to mining), was the largest user of energy, with 24 percent of the total primary industry usage. This was followed by the sheep, beef cattle, and grain growing industry with just under 20 percent.

Diesel was the largest energy source for primary industries, making up 50 percent of the energy they consumed. The main use for diesel was in mobile off-road applications. Other significant energy sources were electricity and petrol, accounting for 20 percent and 10 percent of the total energy source, respectively.

The survey was carried out by Statistics NZ in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

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