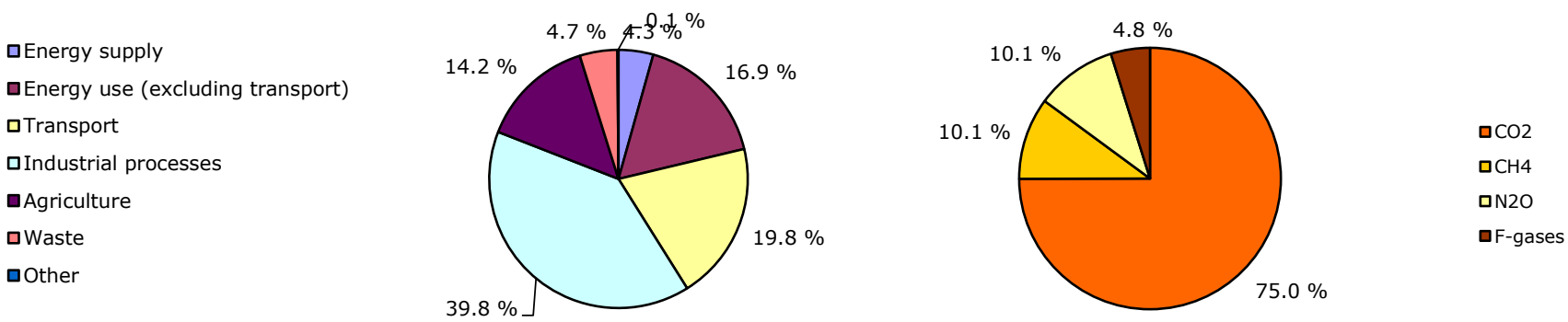
GHG trends and projections in Iceland

European Environment Agency

Key GHG data ([1])	1990	2008	2009	2010	2011 ([2])	2012	1990–2011	2010–2011 ([2])
Average 2008–2012 target under the Kyoto Protocol (Mt CO_2-eq.)		3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7		
Total GHG emissions (Mt CO_2-eq.)	3.5	5.0	4.7	4.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
GHG from international bunkers ([3]) (Mt CO_2-eq.)	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
GHG per capita (t CO_2-eq. / capita)	13.8	15.7	14.7	14.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
GHG per GDP (constant prices) ([4]) (g CO_2-eq. / euro)	423	336	342	345	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Share of GHG emissions (excluding international bunkers) by main source and by gas in 2010 ([1]) ([8])



Assessment of short-term GHG trend (2009–2010)

Iceland was among the countries with decreasing emissons between 2009 and 2010 (-3.4%). Late year 2008, Iceland was severely hit by an economic crisis when its three largest banks collapsed. The crisis has resulted in serious contraction of the economy. Emissions of greenhouse gases decreased from most sectors between 2008 and 2010. In 2010, 818,859 tonnes of aluminium were produced in three aluminium plants. Parallel investments in increased power capacity were needed to accommodate for an nine fold increase in aluminium production. The size of these investments is large relative to the Icelandic economy. Emissions from fuel combustion in the transport and construction sector decreased in 2010 by 7% compared to 2009, because of the economic crises. Emissions from cement production have continued to decrease by 84% since 2007 (process emissions and emissions from fuel consumption) also as a result of the economic crises and the collapse of the construction sector.

Source and additional information

Greenhouse gas emission data and EU ETS data www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/data-viewers

([1]) Total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), GHG per capita, GHG per GDP and shares of GHG do not include emissions and removals from LULUCF (carbon sinks) and emissions from international bunkers.

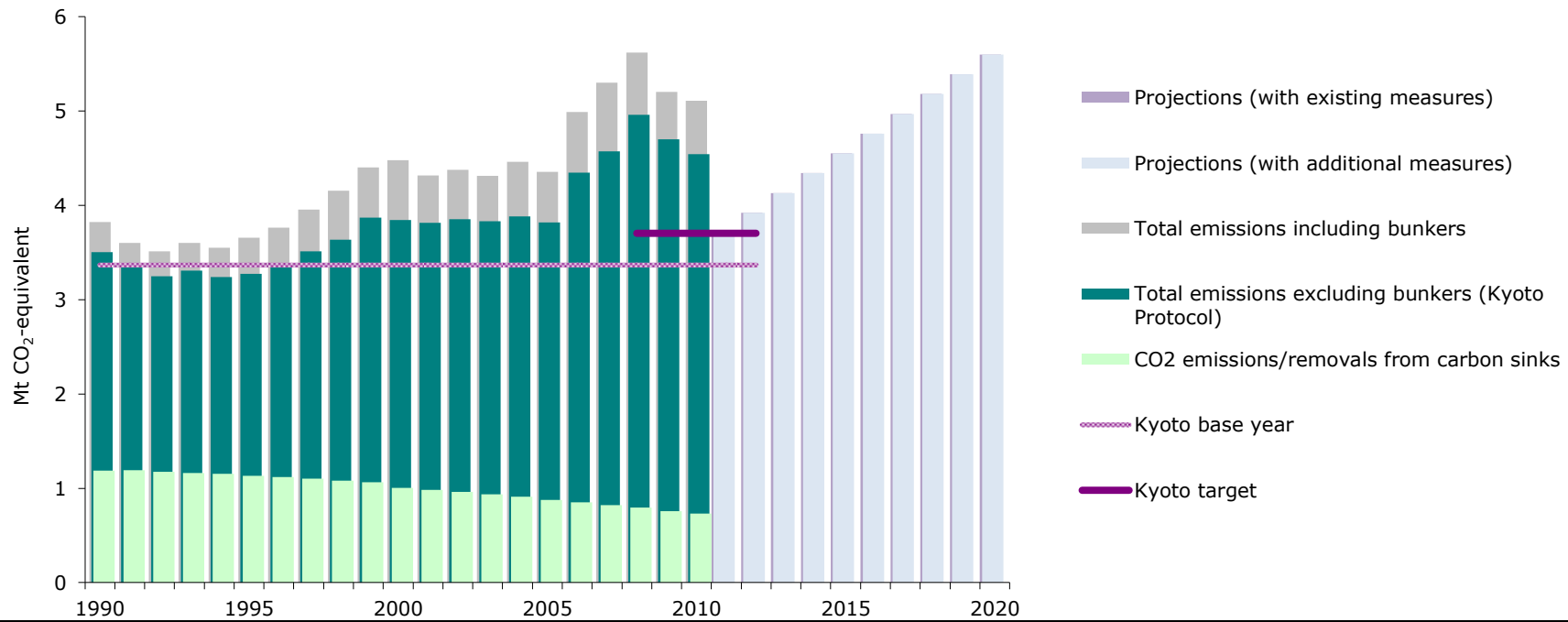
([2]) Based on EEA estimate of 2011 emissions.

([3]) International bunkers: international aviation and international maritime transport.

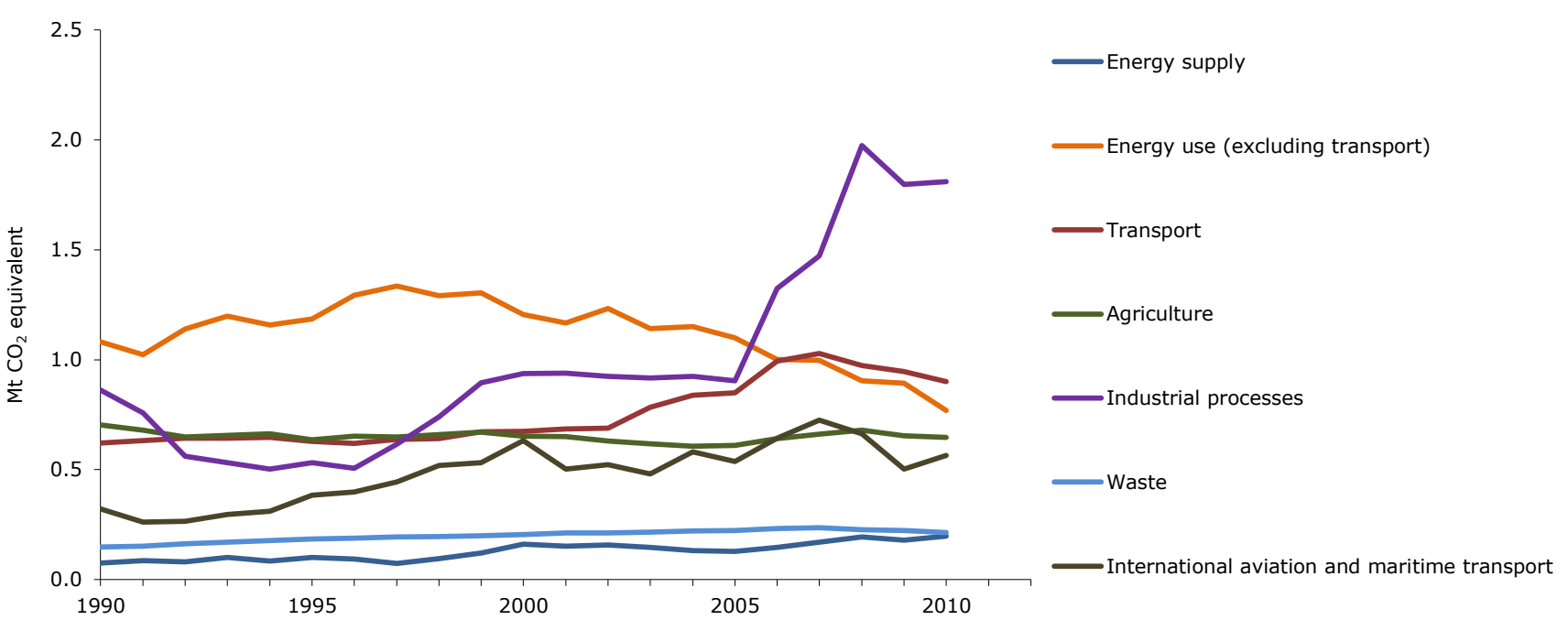
([4]) Gross domestic product (GDP) in 2005 market prices - not suitable for a ranking or quantitative comparison between countries for the same year. GDP information for the year 1990 is not available for some countries. For this reason, the 'GHG per GDP' values presented in the '1990' column correspond to the following years: 1991 (EU-15, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary and Malta), 1992 (Slovakia), 1993 (EU-27 and Estonia) and 1995 (Croatia). Source GDP: Annual macro-economic database (AMECO), European Commission, 2012.

([8]) LULUCF sector and emissions from international bunkers excluded. Due to independent rounding the sums may not necessarily add up.

GHG trends and projections 1990–2020 — total emissions



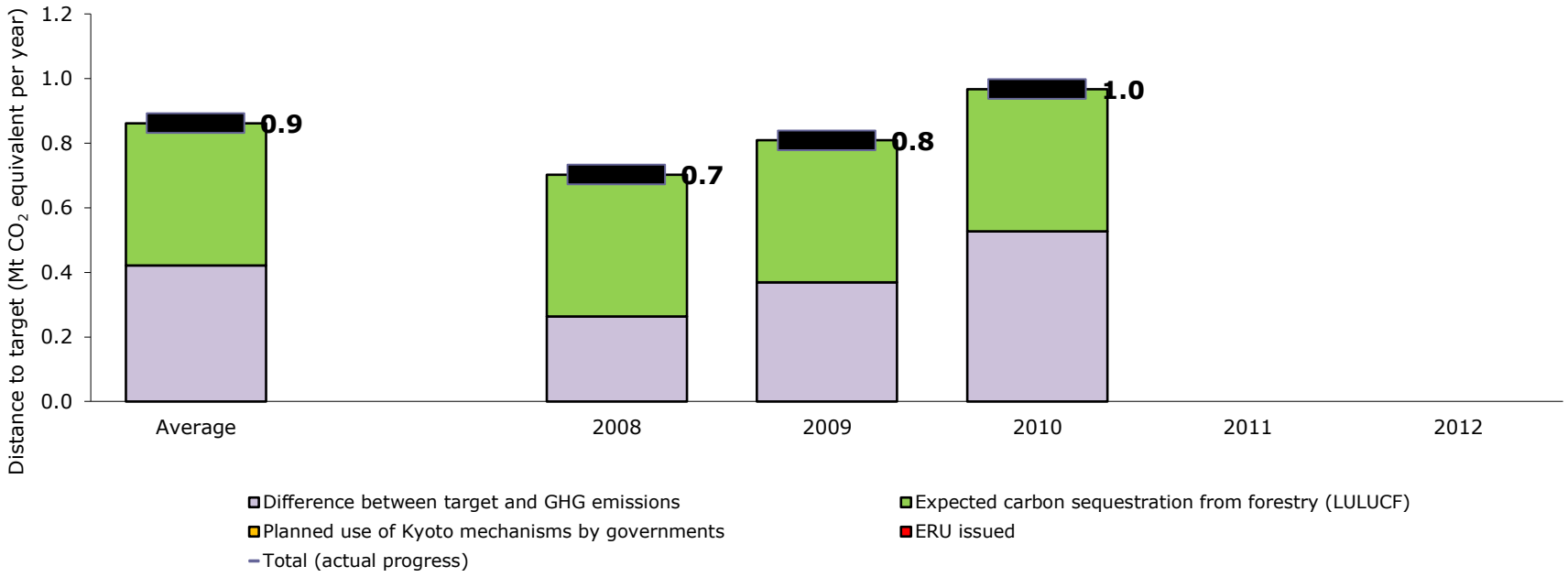
GHG trends 1990–2010 - emissions by sector



Source: National GHG inventory report, 2012.

Progress towards Kyoto target

Average 2008–2010 emissions in Iceland were 1.5 % lower than the base-year level, well below the Kyoto target of 10 % for the period 2008–2012. LULUCF activities are expected to decrease net emissions by an annual amount equivalent to 13 % of base-year level emissions. Taking all these effects into account, average emissions Iceland were standing below their target level, by a gap representing 25.6 % of the base-year emissions. Iceland was therefore on track towards its Kyoto target by the end of 2010. These calculations take into account the provisions of COP Decision 14/CP.7, according to which any Annex I Party accounting for less than 0.05 % of all Annex I Parties 1990 emissions (as is the case for Iceland), can exclude from its national total emissions during the commitment period, the emissions from single projects provided that renewable energy is used, resulting in a reduction in GHG emissions per unit of production, and best environmental practice is used to minimize process emissions.



Note: A positive value indicates emissions lower than the average target.