

Material Flow Accounts

1995-2012

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Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) decreased 17,6% in 2012. The negative growth of national economy, along with the decreased share of material intensive use industries (such as construction), were the main reasons for this result. DMC contracted more than Growth Domestic Product (GDP) (-3.2%), which resulted in an increased resource productivity (+17.4%), maintaining the trend observed since 2008. In 2011, the latest year with available information for EU-28, Portugal presented the seventh lower resource productivity in the EU-28.

Statistics Portugal releases preliminary results for Material Flow Accounts (MFA) for 2012. The MFA data, fully consistent with Portuguese National Accounts (base year 2006), is reported to Eurostat on yearly basis, as established by the European Parliament and Council's Regulation (EU) N.º 691/2011, from 6 July 2011, on European environmental economic accounts. Additional detailed information can be found on Statistics Portugal website (www.ine.pt), on the National Accounts folder, Satellite Accounts section.

The general purpose of economy-wide material flow accounts (EW-MFA) is to describe the interaction of the domestic economy with the natural environment and the rest of the world economy (ROW) in terms of flows of materials (excluding water and air). It allows assessing if the economy's growth is more or less intensive material use.

1. 2012 main results

DMC decreased 17.6% in 2012. The negative growth of national economy, along with the decreased share of material intensive use industries (such as construction, with a decrease of 14.8% in Gross Value Added), were the main reasons for this result.

DMC contracted more than Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (-3.2%), which resulted in an increased resource productivity (+17.4%), thus maintaining the upwards trend observed since 2008.

2. International comparisons

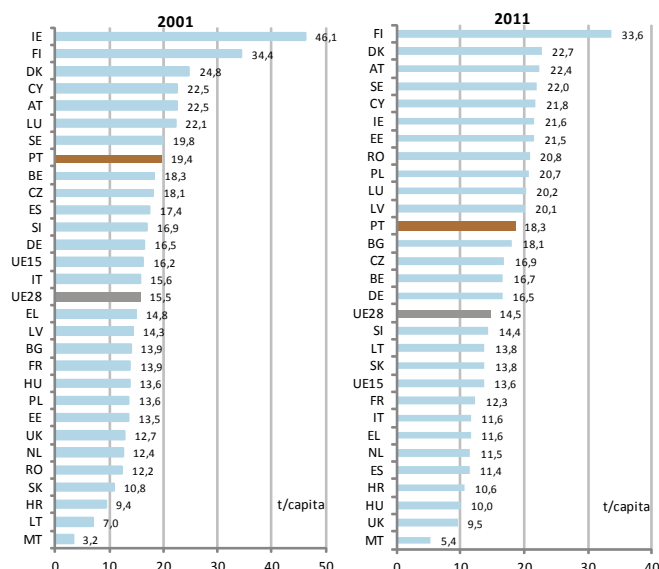
In 2011, DMC in Portugal was 18.3 ton *per capita*, and EU-28 average was 14.5 ton *per capita*. Compared to 2001 (the first year with EU-28 data available) there was an improvement in the relative position in terms of

DMC *per capita* (from the 8th to the 12th largest) and a reduction in the difference towards EU-28 average.

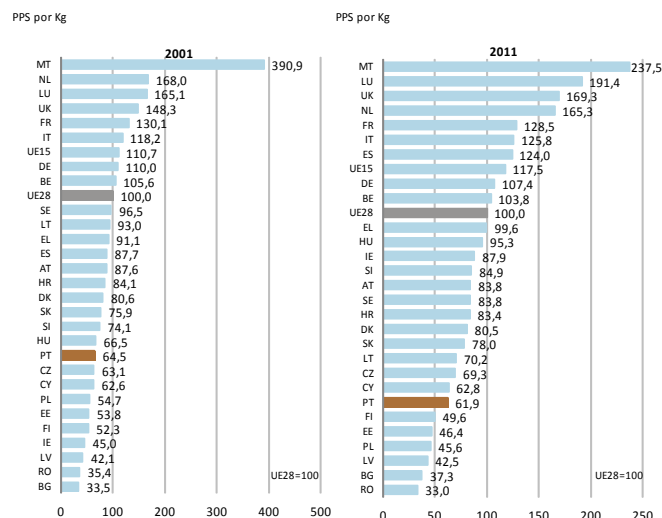
Chart 2.1.2. **Resource productivity (GDP/DMC) in Eu-28, for 2001 and 2011**

Chart 2.1.1. **DMC *per capita*, in EU-28, for 2001 and**

2011



Portugal presented, both in 2001 and 2011, a resource productivity (GDP/DMC) lower than EU-28 average. In this period of time, the Portuguese position in the European context deteriorated (from the 10th to the 7th lower resource productivity) and the gap to EU-28 average has also increased.



Comparing GDP and DMC evolution, both in the EU-28 and Portugal, between 2001 and 2011, it is possible to observe opposing trends, with GDP growing and DMC decreasing. It is noteworthy, however, that the gap between the evolution of GDP and DMC is more pronounced and consistent in EU-28.