

Material Flow Accounts 1995-2013

Domestic material consumption decreased 11.7% in 2013

Domestic Material Consumption of materials decreased 11.7% in 2013. This decrease was determined by the contraction of economic activity and especially the change in its structure, persisting the loss of relative importance of industries with more intensive use of materials, in particular construction. The steeper decline in Domestic Material Consumption compared to GDP (-1.4% in real terms), led to an increase in productivity associated with the use of materials in 2013 (+11.7%), keeping the increasing trend since 2009. Still, in 2013 Portugal has the eighth lowest resource productivity in EU.

Statistics Portugal publishes the provisional results of Material Flows Accounts (MFA) for the year 2013, reviewing also the series since 1995. This information is consistent with the new base of the Portuguese National Accounts (CNP) released in August 29, 2014. The review of the results of MFA reflected the methodological changes resulting from the adoption of the European System of Accounts 2010 - ESA 2010, updating and incorporating new sources of information and reviews of some specific procedures and methods of this satellite account.

MFA aims to express, in terms of material flows, the interaction of national economy with the natural environment and the rest of the world economy, in order to evaluate if economic growth is achieved through a more efficient use of materials taken from the environment (dematerialization) or using a more intense use of materials. MFA is annually transmitted to Eurostat under Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 on European environmental economic accounts. In Statistics Portugal website, in the National Accounts Material Flow Accounts – 1995-2013

dissemination area (Satellite Accounts section) are also available additional tables with more detailed information.

1. Analysis of the main indicators

1.1. Main results in 2013

Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) decreased by 11.7% in 2013. As already occurred in previous years, this evolution was determined by the contraction of economic activity in Portugal and, especially, the loss of relative importance of industries with more intensive use of materials, particularly construction (the Gross Value Added - GVA decreased by 13.1%).

The most intense decrease in DMC compared to the Gross Domestic Product - GDP in volume (-1.4%), determined an increase in resource productivity (GDP / DMC) of 11.7% in 2013, continuing the upwards trend observed since 2009.

2. International comparisons

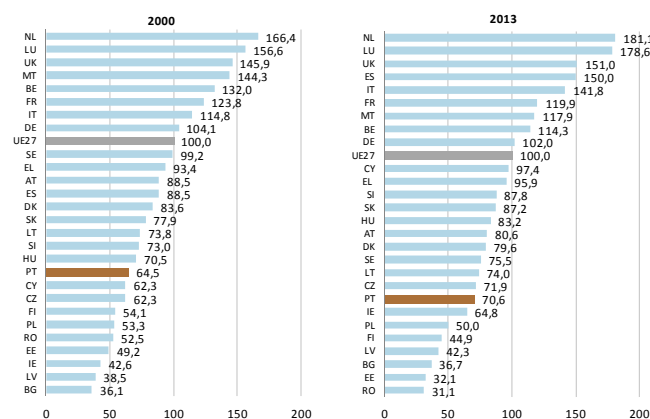
Portugal registered, in 2013, a DMC *per capita* of 14.1 tons per capita (19.5 in 2000), having approached the European average. Indeed, in 2013 DMC *per capita* was 13.2 tons in EU27 (15.6 in 2000). This indicator thus decreased more sharply in Portugal than in EU. Compared to 2000, there was an improvement in the relative position of Portugal in terms of DMC *per capita* (passing from the 21st country with the lowest DMC *per capita* in 2000 to the 15th in 2013).

Chart 1. Domestic materials consumption (DMC) per capita in the EU27 in 2000 and 2013



Portugal, while continuing to record successive improvements, continues to present resource productivity (GDP in PPS / DMC) below the European average (70.6% of the EU27 average in 2013). Between 2000 and 2013, the relative position of Portugal worsened (10th lowest resource productivity in 2000 and 8th in 2013).

Chart 2. Resource productivity (GDP in PPS / DMC), in the EU27 in 2000 and 2013



Comparing the evolution of resource productivity of EU27 and Portugal, it is possible to conclude that, between 2000 and 2013, the increase in productivity was higher in Portugal than in EU.

Chart 2.1.3. Resource productivity evolution (GDP / DMC) in Portugal and in the EU27, between 2000 and 2013

