

Material Flow Accounts

1995-2017

Domestic Material Consumption increased by 6.2% in 2017, with GDP increasing by 2.8%

Domestic Consumption of Materials increased by 6.2% in 2017, well above GDP growth in volume (2.8%). This evolution resulted in a decrease in resource productivity (-3.2%). Naturally, this result reflects in part the change in the composition of GDP growth, namely as a consequence of the bigger contribution of Construction.

In 2017, Portugal recorded a *per capita* domestic material consumption of 15.9 tons, moving away from the European average (13.6 tons) and dropping one position in the EU28 ranking (from 13th country with the lowest consumption in 2016 to 14th in 2017).

Statistics Portugal publishes the provisional results of Material Flows Accounts (MFA) for 2017, presenting revisions for the retrospective series, following the update of several data sources. In Statistics Portugal website, in the National Accounts dissemination area (Satellite Accounts section), additional tables with more detailed information are also available.

MFA aims to express, in terms of material flows, the interaction of the 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 a more intense use of materials. Thus, MFA is an important data source for monitoring circular economy.

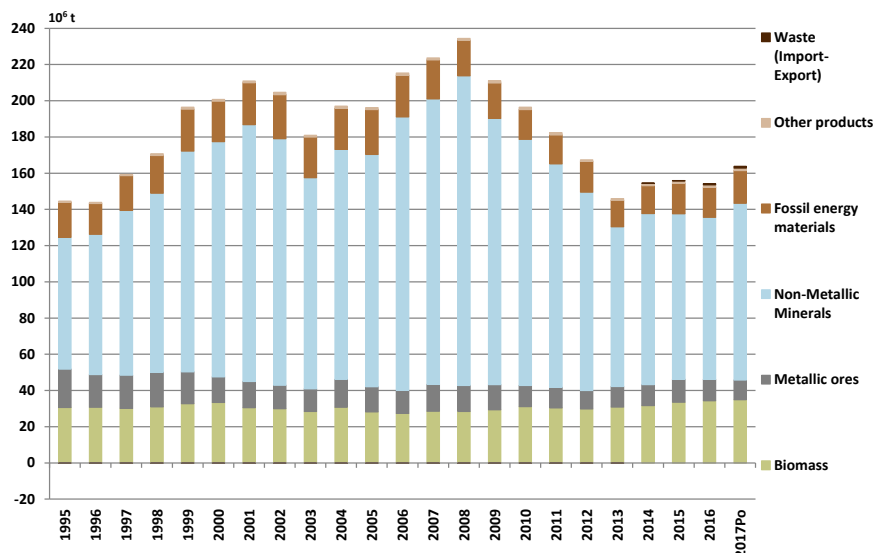
This project has as methodological reference the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA), ensuring compatibility with national accounting criteria.

1. Analysis of the main indicators

In 2017, domestic material consumption (DMC) increased by 6.2%, after having decreased by 1.1% in 2016. This evolution was determined by increases in fossil energy materials (+9.7%) and non-metallic minerals (+9.0%).

In 2017, resource productivity (GDP / DMC) decreased by 3.2%, reflecting a real GDP growth (2.8%) lower than domestic material consumption (6.2%). Between 1995 and 2017, GDP grew by 31.8% in volume, while domestic material consumption (DMC) increased 13.3%, leading to a 16.3% increase in resource productivity over the period.

Chart 1 Domestic material consumption



Source: Statistics Portugal ([Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts](#))

2. International comparisons¹

In 2017, Portugal's resource productivity (GDP / DMC) corresponded to 68.1% of the European average, placing the country in 20th place in the EU28. DMC *per capita* was 16.9% higher than the European average.

Chart 2 Resource productivity, in EU28, in 2017
(GDP in PPS/DMC)

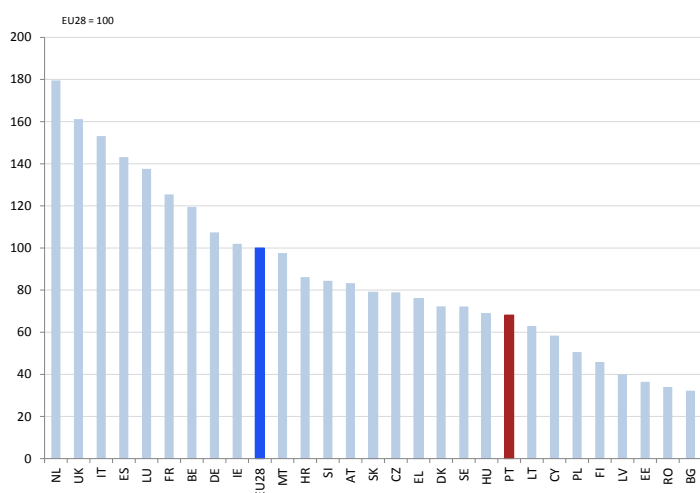
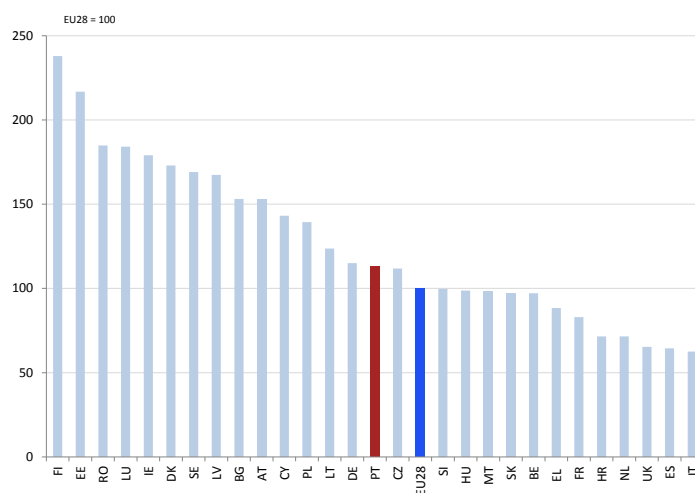


Chart 3 Domestic Material Consumption, in EU28, in 2017
DMC *per capita*



Source: Statistics Portugal ([Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts](#)); Eurostat ([Data Explorer env_ac_mfa](#))

¹ The information from the Member States (except Portugal) was extracted from Eurostat database on 13 November 2018. Data for Portugal have been updated with the new MFA series now available.