

Material Flow Accounts

1995-2018

Domestic Material Consumption increased more than GDP in 2018

Domestic Material Consumption increased by 3.5% in 2018, 1.1 percentage points more than real GDP growth. Thus, there was a decrease in productivity associated with the use of materials (-1.0%), similar to what had already happened in the previous year.

In 2017, the last year with information available for the EU 28, Portugal recorded the seventh-lowest resource productivity in EU.

Statistics Portugal presents the provisional results of the Material Flow Account (MFA) for 2018, as well as revised data for the period 1995 to 2017, following the update of data sources. In the Statistics Portugal website, in the National Accounts dissemination area (Satellite Accounts section), additional tables and detailed methodological notes are also available.

MFA aims to translate, in terms of material flows, the relation of the national economy with the natural environment and the rest of the world, allowing assessing whether economic growth is achieved through more efficient use of materials extracted from the environment (dematerialization) or more intensive use of them. MFA is thus a relevant source of information for monitoring the circular economy.

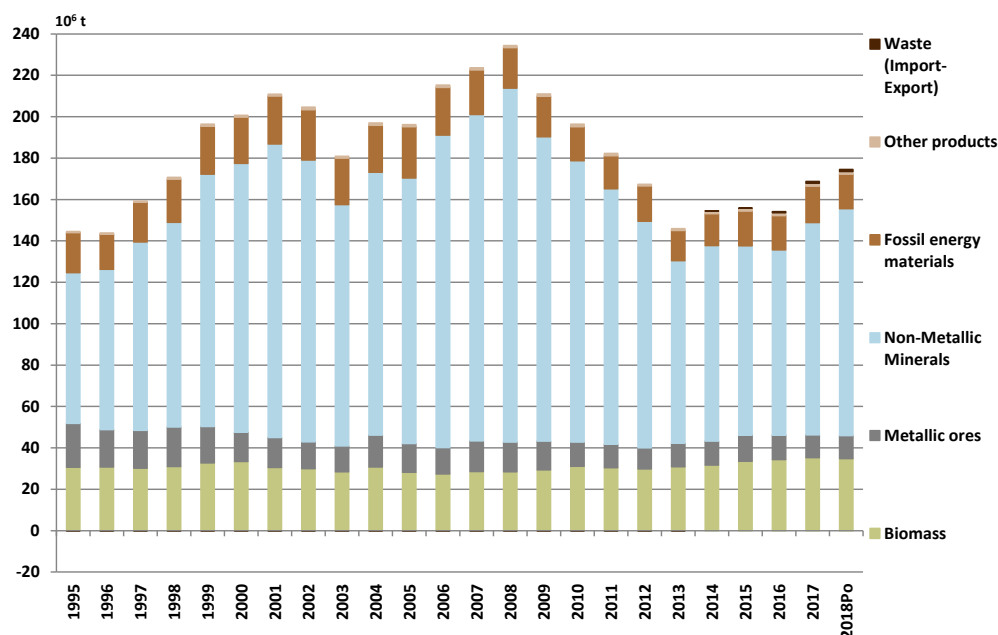
This project has as methodological reference the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA), ensuring compatibility with national accounting criteria.

1. Analysis of the main indicators

In 2018, the domestic material consumption (DMC) totalled 174.6 million tons, a growth of 3.5% over the previous year.

For this evolution, the increase observed in domestic consumption of non-metallic minerals (6.9%) was decisive, reducing the impact of the decrease of fossil energy materials (-5.4%) and biomass (-1.4%). Non-metallic minerals represented on average, over the last five years, 60.3% of the DMC (62.8% in 2018), followed by biomass with about 21.0% (19.9% in 2018).

Chart 1 **Domestic material consumption**

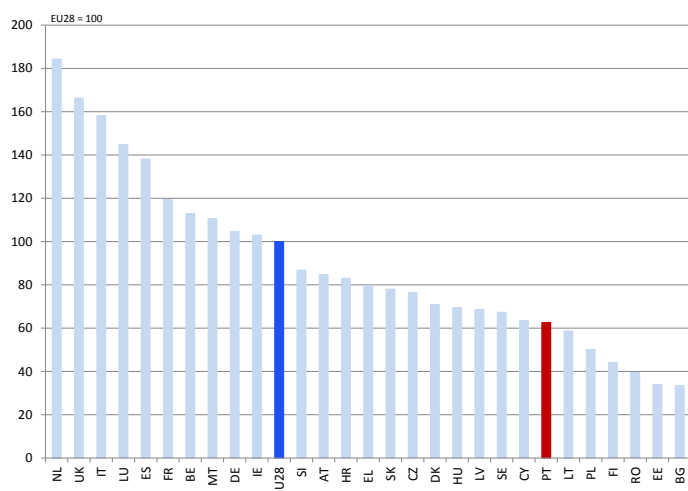


Source: Statistics Portugal ([Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts](#))

2. International comparisons¹

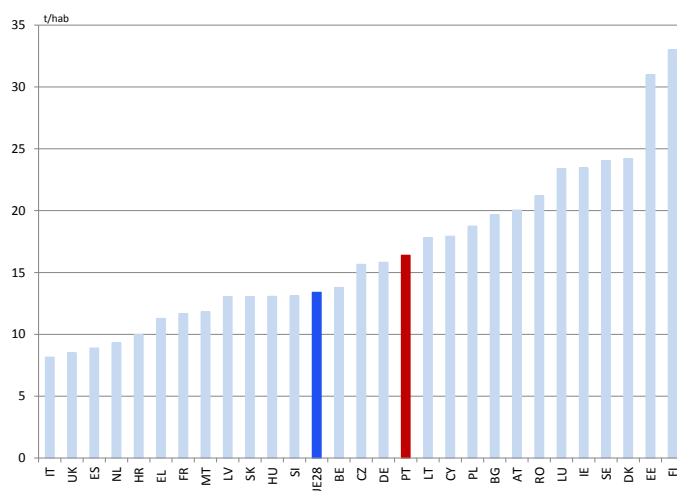
In 2017, Portugal's resource productivity (GDP / DMC) corresponded to 62.6% of the European average, placing the country in 22nd place in the EU28. DMC *per capita* was 22.3% higher than the European average.

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



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

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



¹ The information from the Member States (except Portugal) was extracted from the Eurostat database on 12 December 2019. Data for Portugal have been updated with the new MFA series now available.