

17 December 2018

**Environmental accounts: Material flow accounts**  
Preview data 2017

**The national consumption of materials increased by 1.5% in 2017, reaching 406.4 million tonnes**

**Productivity of materials in the Spanish economy increased by 1.5%**

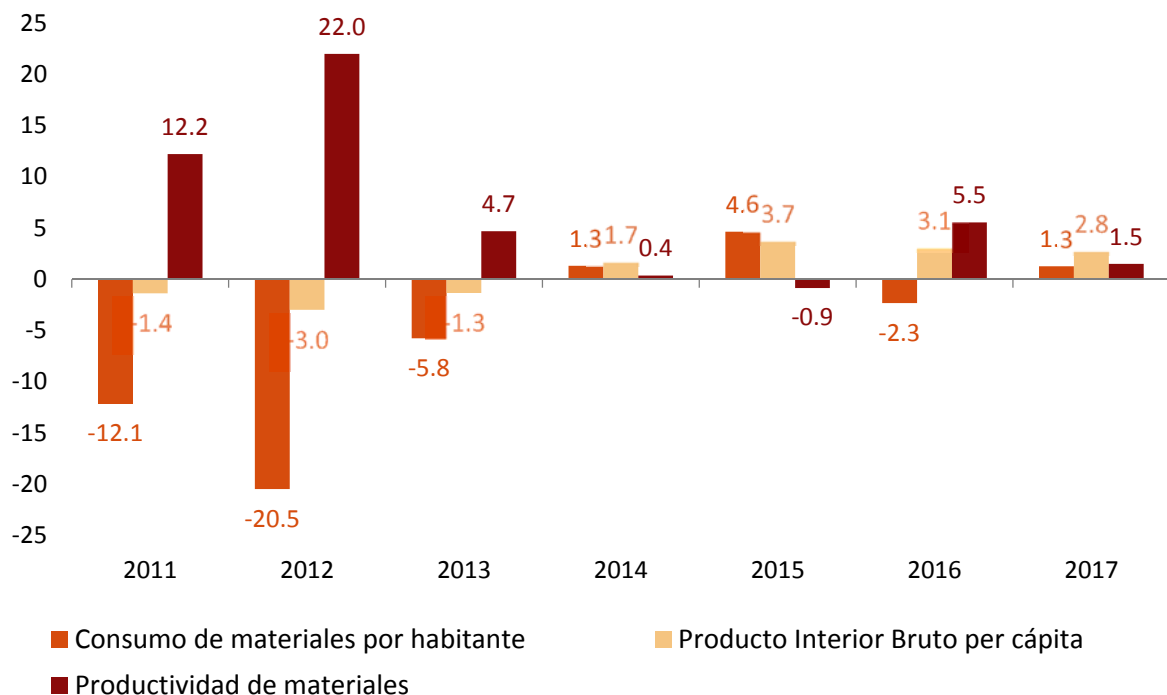
The national consumption of materials, which measures the annual quantity of solid, liquid and gaseous materials (excluding air and water) used directly by the economy, increased by 1.5% in 2017, reaching 406.4 million tonnes.

Productivity of materials, or the amount of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) generated per unit of consumption of materials, reached 2,805.1 euros per tonne, with an increase of 1.5% compared to the previous year.

In turn, the consumption of materials per capita increased by 1.3%, reaching 8.7 tonnes.

**Main indicators**

Inter-annual variation rates



### Components of the national consumption of materials

As with previous years, the main component of the consumption of materials was national extraction, with 81.1% of the total. It reached 329.6 million tonnes, 0.2% less than in 2016.

The physical trade balance (imports minus exports) was 76.8 million tonnes in 2017, with an increase of 9.4%. Imports amounted to 269.9 million tonnes, compared with 193.1 million tonnes of exports.

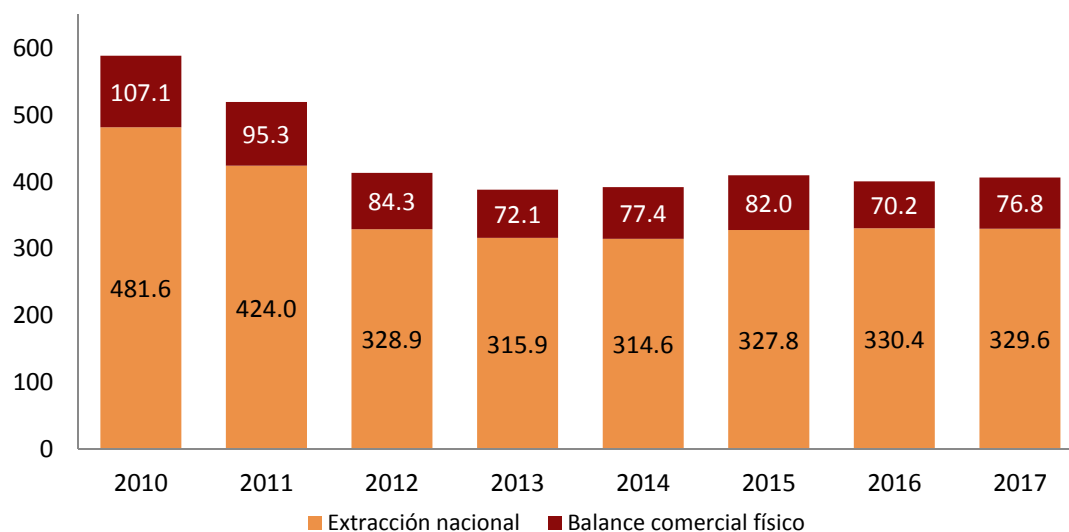
#### National consumption of materials. Year 2017

Unit: thousand tonnes

	2017	Annual rate
<b>National consumption of materials</b>	<b>406,372.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>National extraction</b>	<b>329,602.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Physical trade balance</b>	<b>76,769.8</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Imports	269,874.9	9.1
Exports	193,105.1	8.9

#### National consumption of materials

Unit: Million tonnes



## National extraction of materials

The main materials extracted in national territory in 2017 were *Non-metallic minerals*, mainly limestone, plaster and sand, followed by *Biomass*, notably cereals, fruits and vegetables, with 191.3 and 120.7 million tonnes respectively.

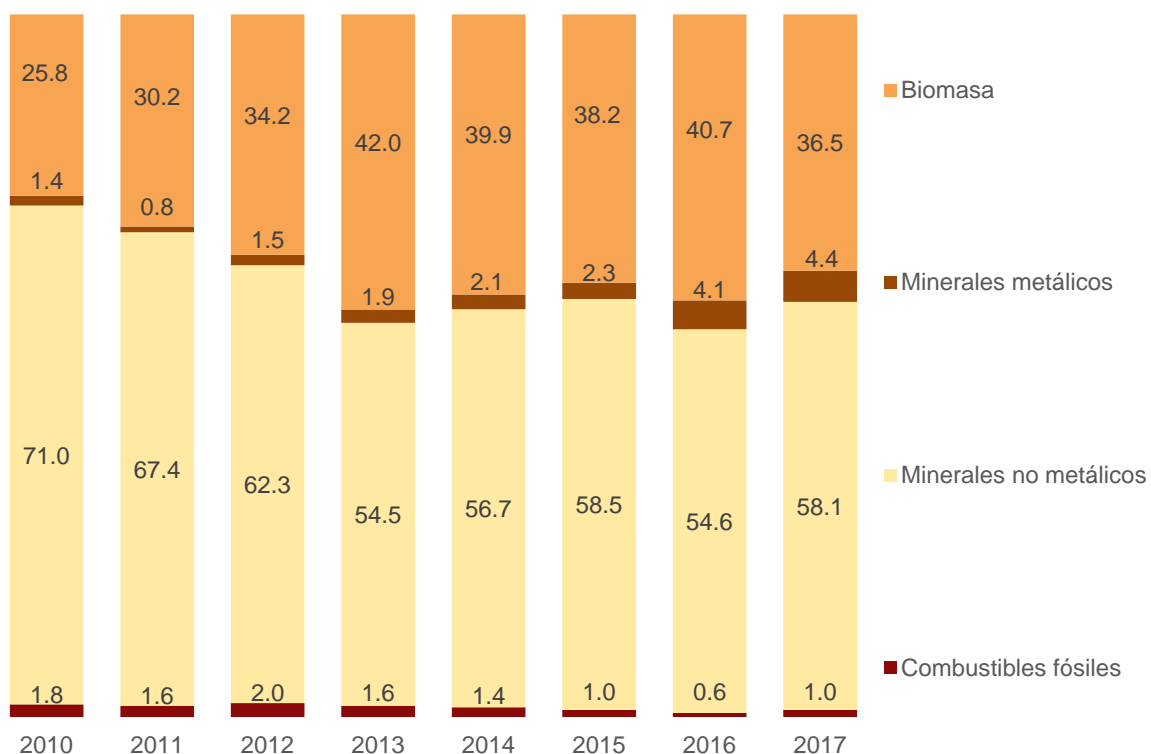
Extraction of non-metallic minerals increased by 6.2% compared to the previous year, while that of biomass decreased by 10.2%.

## National extraction in thousand tonnes. Year 2017

Unit: Thousand tonnes

	2017	%	annual rate
<b>National extraction</b>	329,602.2	100	-0.2
Biomass	120,710.7	36.5	-10.2
Metallic minerals	14,346.1	4.4	4.6
Non-metallic minerals	191,335.7	58.1	6.2
Fossil fuels	3,209.7	1.0	53.5

## Distribution of national extraction (percentage)



### Components of the physical trade balance

Fossil fuels (coal, crude oil, natural gas and derivatives) were the materials that made the biggest contribution to the physical trade balance in 2017, both in imports (54.0% of the total) and exports (28.3%). It is followed by Biomass (19.6% and 25.5% respectively).

Fossil fuels had the most positive physical trade balance (90.8 million tonnes). By contrast, non-metallic minerals had the most negative (-26.3 million).

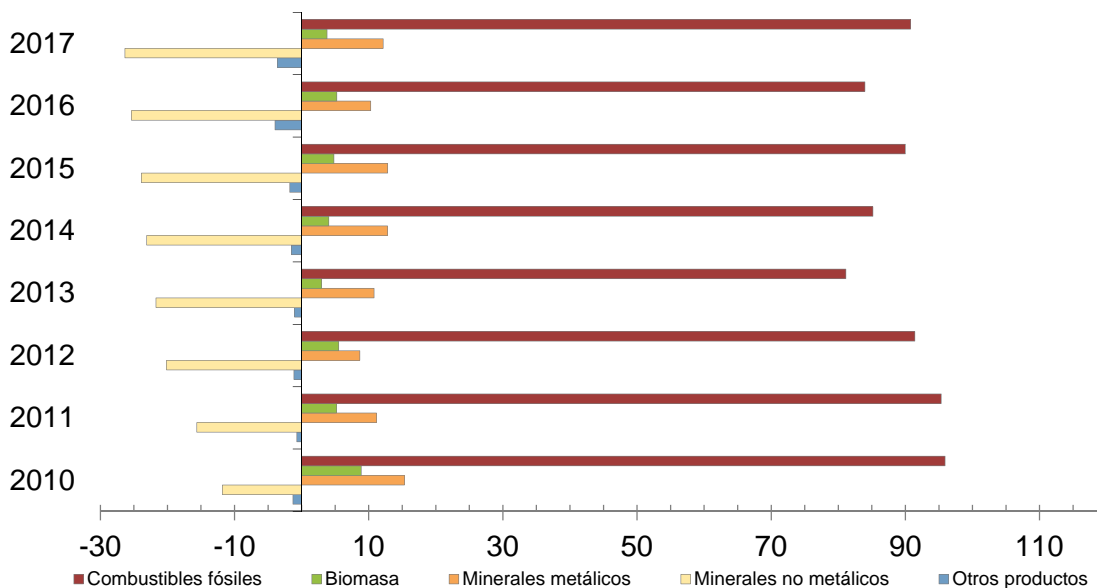
### Components of the physical trade balance Year 2017

Unit: Thousand tonnes

	Physical trade balance	Imports	%	Exports	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76,769.8</b>	<b>269,874.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>193,105.1</b>	<b>100</b>
Fossil fuels	90,768.2	145,659.0	54.0	54,890.9	28.3
Biomass	3,794.7	52,956.3	19.6	49,161.6	25.5
Metallic minerals	12,152.9	44,533.9	16.5	32,381.1	16.8
Non-metallic minerals	-26,336.3	14,334.9	5.3	40,671.2	21.1
Other products	-3,609.5	12,390.8	4.6	16,000.3	8.3

### Components of the physical trade balance

Unit: Million tonnes



### Review and update of data

The INE is also publishing the complete estimates of the Material Flow Accounts for the 2008-2016 series today. The data for the 2013-2017 period are provisional and will be revised when the data for 2018 are released. All results are available on INEBase.

## Methodological note

The objective of the Environmental Accounts (EA) is to integrate the environmental information in a coherent way in the central system of National Accounts. They include a set of satellite accounts, with annual transmission, compiled using the accounting formats applicable to the different sectoral and territorial areas, with a strong presence of physical data. They show the interaction between the economy, households and environmental factors.

The *Material Flow Accounts* show the physical inputs of materials that enter into the national economic system in physical units (tonnes). This makes it possible to obtain a set of aggregate indicators on the use of natural resources, from which indicators can be derived on the productivity of resources (eco-efficiency) in relation to GDP and other economic and employment indicators, in addition to indicators on intensity of materials from lifestyles, considering the size of the population and other demographic indicators.

Normally, an increase in the need for materials, such as construction and energy resource materials, linked to economic growth occurs. With more rational use of natural resources, a higher economic value is given to each unit used and, in this way, the rate of increase in the use of resources may be lower than the rate of economic growth. When this occurs, it is said that a decoupling of the use of materials and economic growth takes place.

For more information you can access the methodology at:

<http://www.ine.es>

And the standardised methodological report at:

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30086>

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