3-1 PRIMARY ENERGY INTENSITY

The efficiency with which energy is used can be determined by way of energy intensity. This indicator compares energy consumption of a country or region with its level of economic activity.

KEY MESSAGE

In 2012, Wallonia's energy intensity (EI)[1] was 18% higher than that of Belgium and 42% higher than the European average[2]. This reflects the importance of the transport sector and energy-intensive industries in Wallonia (metal industry, non-metallic minerals, etc.)[3]. Since 1995, Walloon EI decreased by 35% because of (i) the continuous rise in gross domestic product (GDP) until 2008[4] (tertiarisation of the economy, production of higher added value goods) and (ii) a decrease in the total energy demand since 2004. This can be explained in particular by downturns/closures of economic activities (steel industry, textile industry, etc.), technological progress and the efforts of industry to improve energy efficiency, some of which are supported by the public authorities (branch agreements[5], energy facilitators e.g.). The objective of a more rational efficient energy use is reiterated in the 2014-2019 Regional Policy Statement, which provides for the implementation of the Air Climate Energy Plan.

Evaluation +

Unfavourable but improving situation

[1] Gross domestic energy consumption (total energy requirement)/GDP

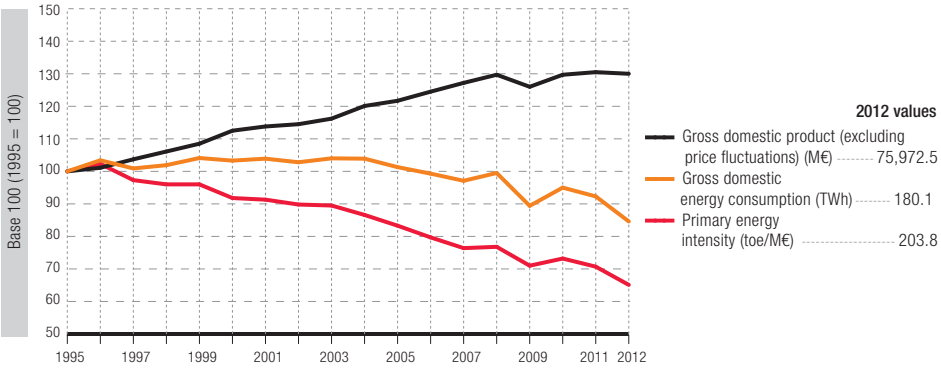
[2] 172.2 toe/M€ for Belgium and 143.2 for EU-28 in 2012

[3] ICEDD (2014a)

[4] The decrease in GDP growth rates since 2008 is due to the economic crisis

[5] Voluntary partnerships aimed at increasing energy efficiency in the main industrial sectors (representing 75% of total energy consumption by industry in 2012) (Energy Portal of Wallonia)

Fig. 3-1 Primary energy intensity* in Wallonia



* Gross domestic energy consumption (total energy requirement)/Gross domestic product

EOW 2014 – Sources: SPW - DGO4 - DEBD (energy balance 2012); IWEPS