

5-2 ECO-EFFICIENCY OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Industrial activities are the source of various pressures on the environment (waste production, pollutant discharges, etc.). Several measures have been taken to get companies to improve their eco-efficiency, i.e. to reduce their environmental impacts while at the same time maintaining or improving productivity.

KEY MESSAGE

Between 1990 and 2012, the final energy consumption and atmospheric emissions¹ of the industrial sector² decreased, in some cases significantly, while gross value added increased by about 24%. This eco-efficiency gain is associated in particular with the more efficient use of energy, the use of less polluting fuels, advances made in emission treatment and the implementation of branch agreements³. Between 1995 and 2011, the evolution of gross value added in industry (+21%) was decoupled from that of water consumption (-57%) and pollutants discharged into the natural environment. These environmental pressures have decreased overall⁴ due to the slowdown in the metalworking sector and improvements made by industrial companies (treatment plants, etc.). The economic crisis constituted a further decoupling factor, impacting a number of high-pollut-ing sub-sectors, in particular steelmaking.

Evaluation

Favourable and improving situation

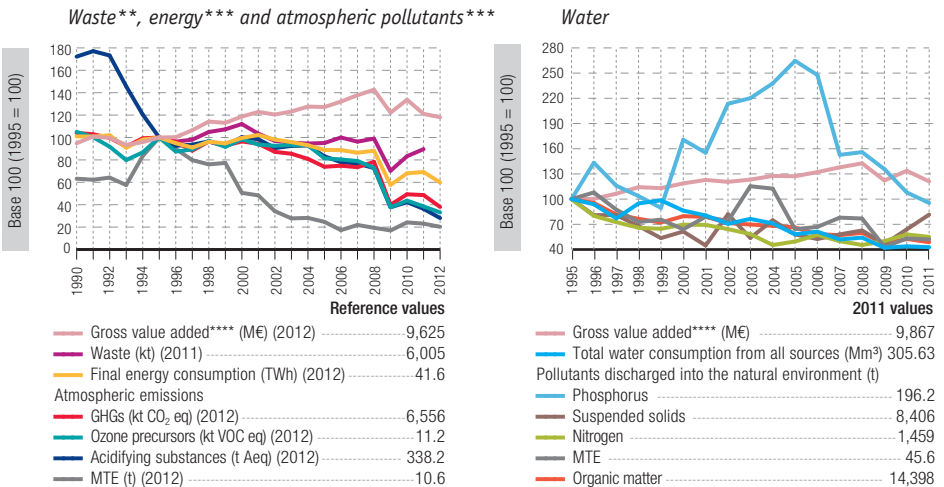
[1] Related solely to combustion processes

[2] Mining and manufacturing industries (excluding energy production and transport activities)

[3] Voluntary partnerships for reducing GHG emissions

[4] Certain major variations can be explained by uncontrolled discharges by certain companies

Fig. 5-2 Eco-efficiency of mining and manufacturing industries in Wallonia*



* excluding energy production and transport ** estimated *** solely for combustion processes; excl. CO₂ from biomass **** at constant prices; excl. the energy sector
 EOW 2014 – Sources: SPW - AwAC (reporting conducted in February and April 2014); SPW - DG04 - DEBD (energy balance 2012); SPW - DG03 - DEE (integrated environmental survey); ICN (HERMREG model)