

5-5 ECO-EFFICIENCY OF THE SERVICE SECTOR

The eco-efficiency of the service sector can be estimated by comparing the development of the number of jobs involved with that of the observed environmental pressures, including energy use.

KEY MESSAGE

In 2012, the service sector¹ accounted for just under 11% of final energy consumption² in Wallonia. Though only a relatively small share, the sector's energy consumption grew significantly (+61%) between 1990 and 2012.

Electricity consumption increased particularly, with an average growth rate of 2.9% a year between 1990 and 2012 (+88% for the whole period), mainly on account of the greatly increased use of electrical equipment. Examples include the wide use of computers, the increase in refrigerated areas in supermarkets, and air-conditioning³. These evolutions have led to steady increases in the annual demand for electricity per job: from 4.6 MWh in 1990 to 6.6 MWh in 2012.

In addition, greenhouse gases emissions have risen in line with energy consumption (excluding electricity). For their part, emissions of acidifying substances have been decreasing since 2005, reflecting the growing use of natural gas as a substitute for oil products.

Evaluation

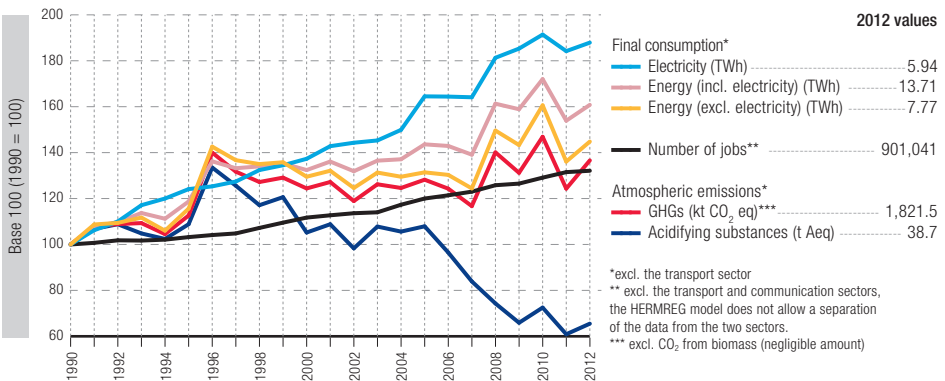
Unfavourable situation and non-assessable trend

[1] Excluding the transport sector

[2] Including electricity

[3] According to a recent study (ICEDD, 2012), 33% of the 1,226 surveyed service establishments used air-conditioning systems in 2011. This compares with a figure of 17% of the 1,403 establishments surveyed in 2002.

Fig. 5-5 Eco-efficiency of the service sector in Wallonia



EOW 2014 – Sources: SPW - AwAC (reporting conducted in February and April 2014); SPW - DGO4 - DEBD (energy balances); ICN (HERMREG model)