

**Environmental accounts: Material flow accounts**  
Preview data 2018

**The national consumption of materials increased by 3.7% in 2018, reaching 423.0 million tonnes**

**Productivity of materials in the Spanish economy decreased by 1.3%**

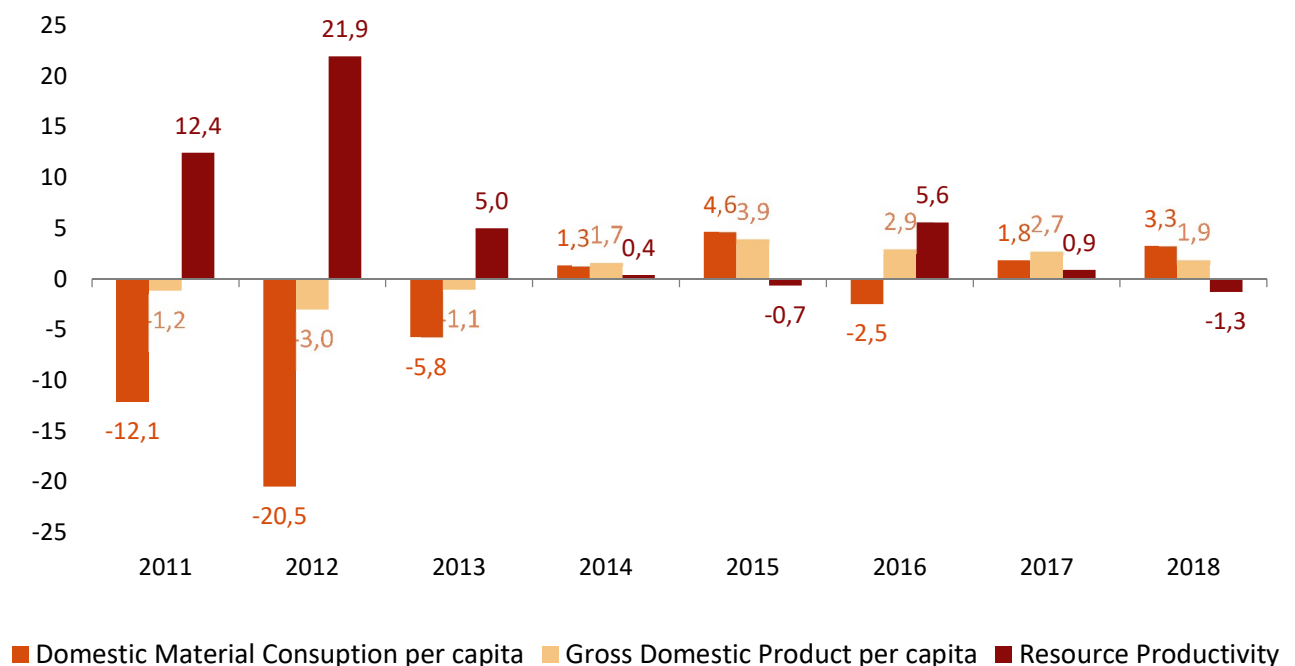
The national consumption of materials, which measures the annual quantity of solid, liquid and gaseous materials (excluding air and water) used directly by the economy, increased by 3.7% in 2018, reaching 423.0 million tonnes.

Productivity of materials, or the amount of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) generated per material consumption unit, reached 2,764.3 euros per ton, with an decrease of 1.3% compared to the previous year.

In turn, the consumption of materials per capita increased by 3.3%, reaching 9.1 tonnes.

**Main indicators**

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 82.8% of the total. It reached 350.0 million tonnes, 5.9% more than in 2018.

The physical trade balance (imports minus exports) was 73.0 million tonnes in 2018, with a decrease of 5.9%. Imports amounted to 279.1 million tonnes, compared with 206.1 million tonnes of exports.

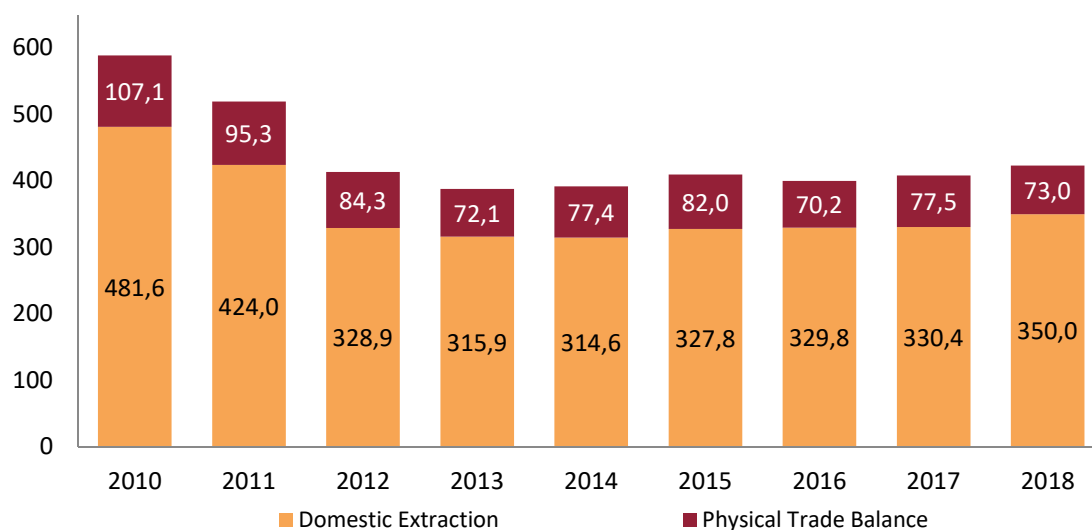
### Domestic Material Consumption. Year 2018

Unit: thousand tonnes

	2018	Annual Rate
<b>Domestic Material Consumption</b>	<b>422,974.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Domestic extraction</b>	<b>350,022.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Physical trade balance</b>	<b>72,951.9</b>	<b>-5.9</b>
Imports	279,054.0	0.1
Exports	206,102.1	2.4

### National consumption of materials

Unit: Million tonnes



## National extraction of materials

The main materials extracted in national territory in 2018 were *Non-metallic minerals*, (mainly limestone, plaster and sand) and the *Biomass* (notably cereals, fruits and vegetables), with 191.0 and 137.1 million tonnes respectively.

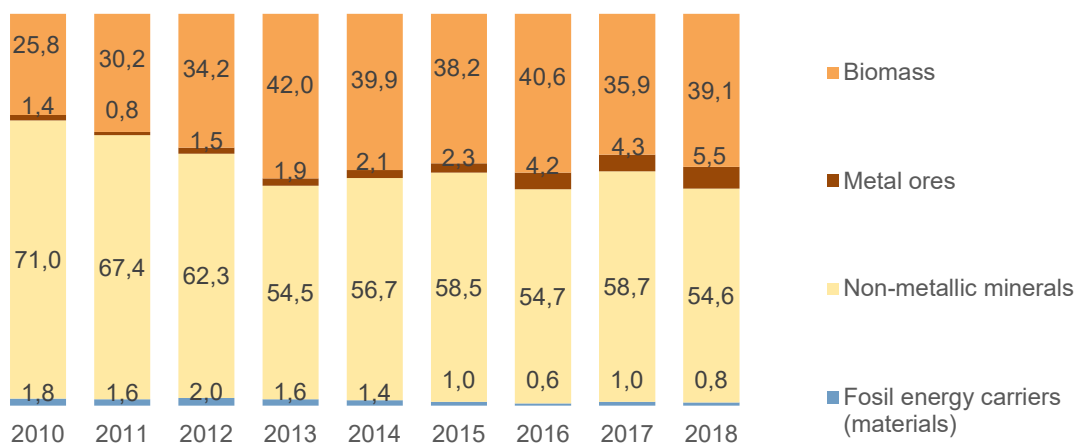
Extraction of non-metallic minerals decreased by 1.5% compared to the previous year, while that of biomass increased by 15.3%.

### Domestic extraction in thousand tonnes. Year 2018

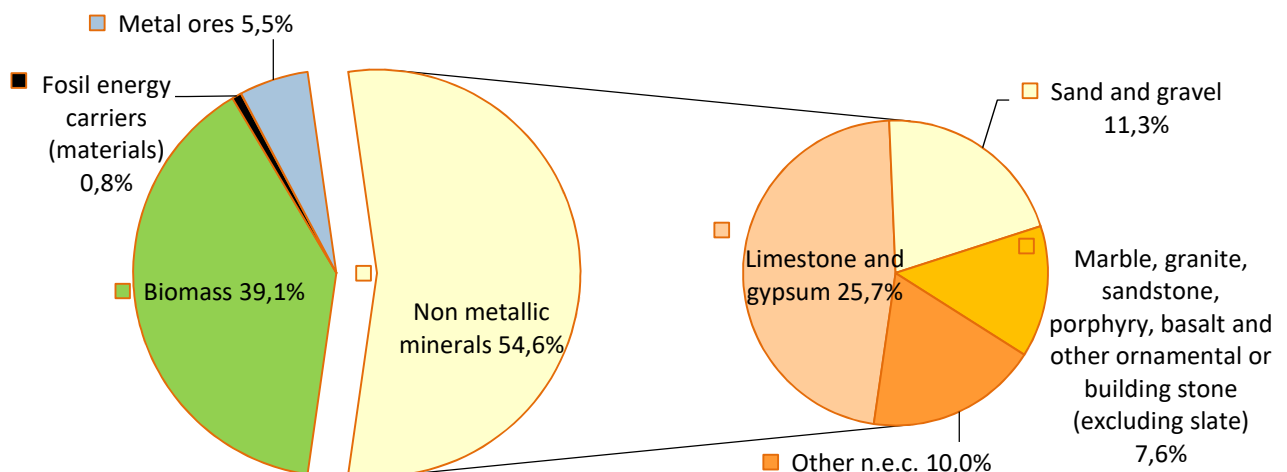
Unit: Thousand tonnes

	2018	%	Annual Rate
<b>Domestic extraction</b>	<b>350,022.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Non-metallic minerals	190,986.8	54.6	-1.5
Biomass	137,112.7	39.1	15.3
Metallic ores	19,256.2	5.5	34.1
Fossil energy carriers (materials)	2,667.0	0.8	-16.9

### National extraction distribution (percentage)



### National extraction distribution (percentage) Year 2018



### 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 2018, both in imports (50.4% of the total) and exports (27.9%). It is followed by Biomass (20.2% and 25.3% respectively).

Fossil fuels had the most positive physical trade balance (83.2 million tonnes). By contrast, non-metallic minerals registered the most negative balance (-26.3 million).

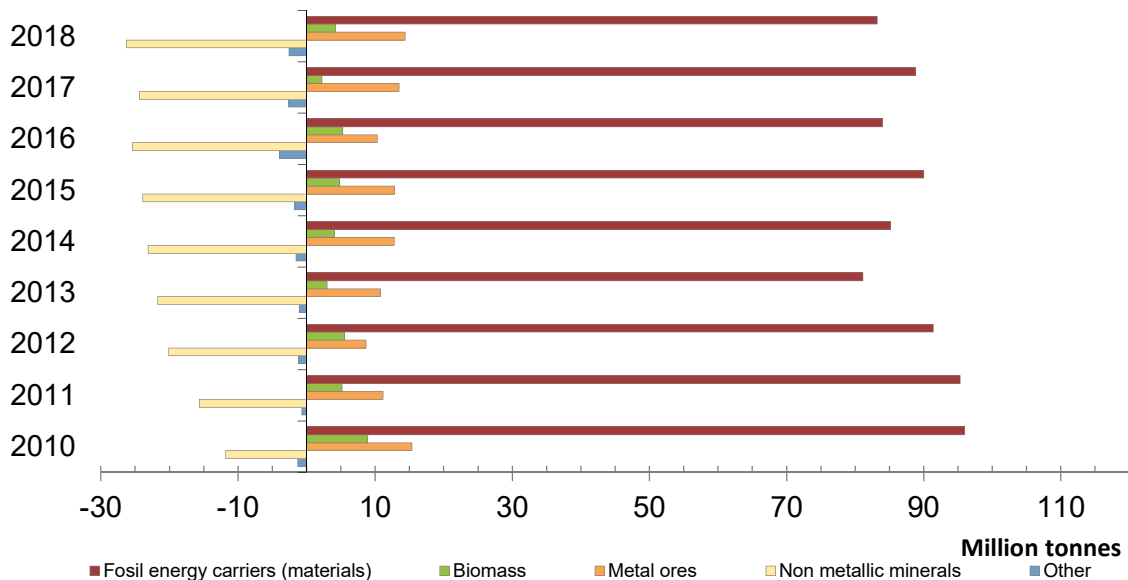
### Components of the physical trade balance Year 2018

Unit: Thousand tonnes

	Physical trade balance	Imports	%	Exports	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,951.9</b>	<b>279,054.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>206,102.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Fossil energy carriers (materials)	83,217.1	140,637.9	50.4	57,420.8	27.9
Biomass	4,198.3	56,335.1	20.2	52,136.8	25.3
Metallic minerals	14,391.1	49,723.3	17.8	35,332.2	17.1
Non-metallic minerals	-26,273.9	17,017.7	6.1	43,291.6	21.0
Other	-2,580.9	15,339.9	5.5	17,920.8	8.7

### Components of the physical trade balance

Unit: Million tonnes



### Data review and update

The INE is also publishing the complete estimates of the Material Flow Accounts for the 2008-2017 series today. The data for the 2014-2018 period are provisional and will be revised when the data for 2019 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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