SUMMARY

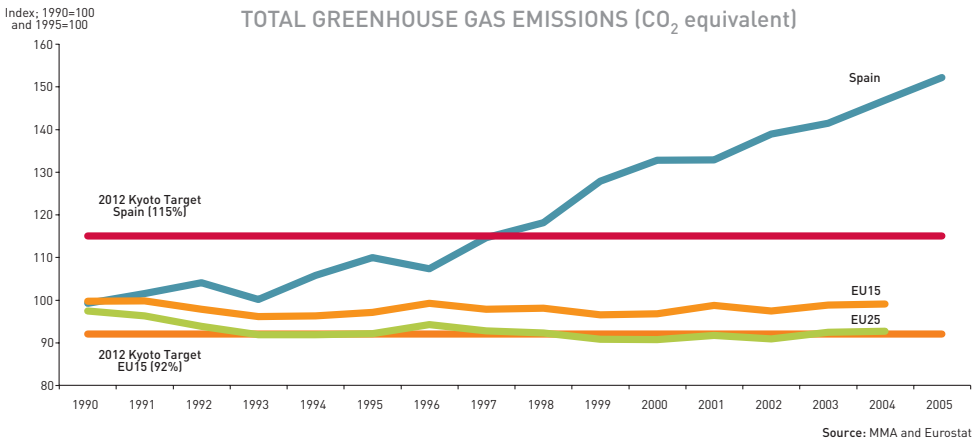
In this new edition of the Environmental Profile of Spain, the indicators generally aggregate a further year's data into the series presented in the 2005 report. In the majority of cases, the data extend to 2004 or 2005 (it has only been possible to update a few indicators to 2006) and the combined results of the three reports published to date provide a picture of the dynamics at work in Spain's environment.

Chapter by chapter, the indicators display each sector's key data, identifying the main features, existing pressures, policies being applied and the results being achieved. It is true that, in many cases, the results are not particularly spectacular, as change requires patience and persistence. Areas such as water quality show immediate and appreciable improvements that are clearly linked to construction of a growing number of urban wastewater treatment plants. In other cases, the improvements achieved, such as reductions in individual vehicles' exhaust emissions due to the introduction of new engine technologies and fuels, are counteracted by significant increases in demand. For example, each vehicle now generates less pollution, but factors such as current urban development models and economic trends are driving up vehicle numbers and use.

Government policy is also able to bring improvements in other areas, such as urban waste collection and treatment, which are becoming increasingly compatible with environmental conservation. However, waste generation per inhabitant is also on the rise and Spain is moving ever closer to the levels seen in other developed European countries.

Environmental impacts come from an increasingly diffuse and complex range of sources, making it more difficult to tackle them now than it was several decades ago. Meteorological conditions also generate problems that are difficult to control. The 2005 hydrological year was one of the driest in recent decades. Meanwhile, 2006 was one of the hottest. These factors mean that we need to change. We need to develop flexible economic models that do not depend solely on a single resource or site that could become insufficient for our requirements at some point in the future, and this applies to all resources, particularly water and energy sources.

AIR



Source: MMA and Eurostat

The upward trend in Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions continues. Over the period 1990-2005, Spain recorded a rise of 52.2%, in other words, 37.2% above the Kyoto commitment. By pollutant type, CO_2 increased over the period by 61.2% and CH_4 by 34.4%. Meanwhile, N_2O rose by just 6.5%, with emissions falling in 2005 by 5% on 2004.

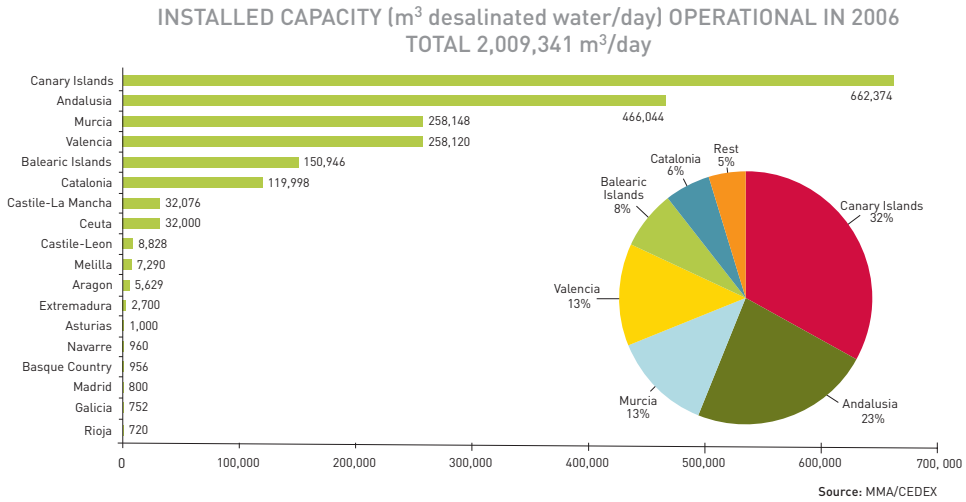
By sector, in 2005 energy processing (including the energy, manufacturing, construction and transport industries) was responsible for 78.9% of total GHG emissions.

Nevertheless, it is worth recalling that in Spain emissions per unit of GDP and per inhabitant in 2004 were still below the EU average. Put forward by the Spanish Ministry of the Environment, in 2007 the Government approved the Spanish Air Quality Strategy (*Estrategia Española de Calidad del Aire*), a guideline framework for action which is to serve as a benchmark for all public authorities involved in the area. In February 2007, the Government also submitted to Parliament the Air Quality and Atmospheric Protection Bill (*Proyecto de Ley de Calidad del Aire y Protección de la Atmósfera*) based on the principles of precaution and preventive action.

As regards acidifying gases, over the period 1990-2005, SO_2 emissions (attributed principally to energy production and transformation) fell by 42%, whilst NO_x and NH_3 emissions rose. Turning to tropospheric ozone precursor gases, over the period 1990-2005, total CO emissions were reduced by 32.3% and NMVOCs decreased by 6.6%. However, NO_x emissions increased by 21.9% and CH_4 by 33.1%.

In terms of protection of vegetation and human health, levels of background pollution of SO_2 and NO_x do not currently present a problem in Spain, but ozone levels exceed the established target figure.

WATER



Agriculture is Spain's biggest water consumer, although over the period 1997-2004 this consumption only rose by 1.05%. Irrigation systems have undergone significant modernisation and a major increase in drip irrigation has been matched by a decrease in gravity-fed methods. Water consumption, particularly by the economic sectors, has progressively risen over the last 10 years. Consumption for household and municipal use has grown to a lesser, though still significant, extent. The volume of water distributed for public supply is rising almost in parallel with GDP, although the increase is greater in terms of total available drinking water.

Spain's water reserves fluctuate enormously. In the period 2003-2004, available reserves were slightly higher than average, a situation which was then reversed in the two subsequent years as the country entered a drought cycle.

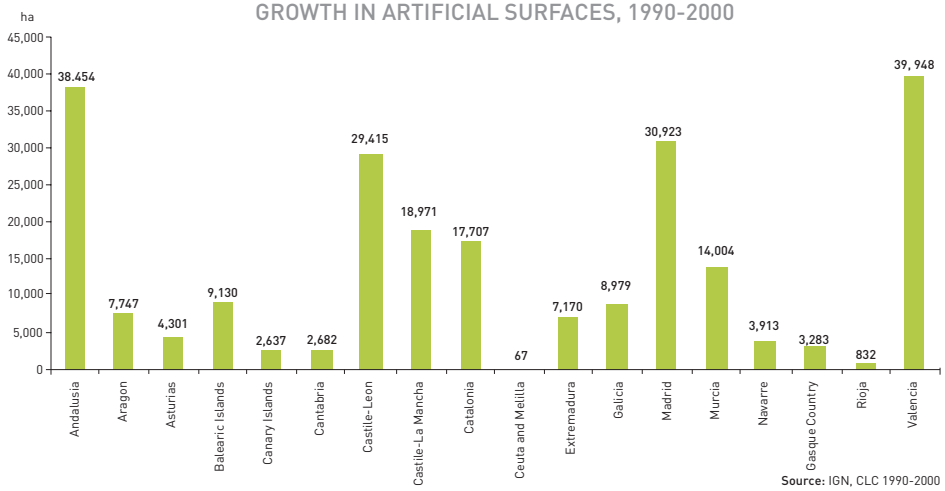
Since 2005, the installed brackish and sea water desalination capacity has grown considerably, exceeding 2 million cubic metres per day by 2006. The Canary Islands, Andalusia and the Mediterranean coast are the areas where these water treatment stations are mainly located. Desalinated water production now accounts for 2% of the volume consumed and usage is evolving as new technology brings improvements in brine treatment and greater energy efficiency.

Nitrate pollution of groundwater continues to be a problem in Spain, with results varying widely by River Basin District. The highest figures are found in the Guadiana and Guadalquivir basins. Chloride is present in coastal groundwater in some coastal hydrogeological units, although the area affected in 2003 decreased following the rise in 2002.

Organic pollution in rivers continues to fall, thanks above all to an increase in urban wastewater treatment as Directive 91/271/EEC is implemented. In 2005, 76% of the pollutant load generated in urban agglomerations was treated in line with the above-mentioned Directive, 13% was allocated to plants currently under construction, whilst the remaining 11% was not treated or was treated insufficiently. There was also a clear improvement in coastal bathing water quality, where only 1% of the sampling points recorded water unsuitable for bathing in 2005.

LAND

GROWTH IN ARTIFICIAL SURFACES, 1990-2000



Source: IGN, CLC 1990-2000

Land is a non-renewable resource vital to ecosystems and human activity. The main threats affecting it are erosion, organic matter loss, pollution, salinisation, compaction, loss of land-based biodiversity, soil sealing, landslides and flooding. In Spain, artificial surfaces have spread around major cities and along the coast. The increase over the last 14 years is equivalent to 30% of all artificial surfaces ever created in the country. In the period between the two Corine Land Cover projects (1990 and 2000), wetland area increased slightly.

The change in artificial land cover between 1990 and 2000 on the 10-km-wide strip along Spain's coast is also measured. The ratio of artificial to non-artificial surface on this coastal strip is four times greater than that found in the rest of the country. However, it is worth pointing out that close to 34% of the coastline, in other words 2,852 km, fall within one of the Protected Area categories established by Act 4/89 (*Ley 4/89*).

The Spanish National Land Inventory (*Inventario Nacional de Suelos*), which is due to be completed in 2012, provides data on land area affected by erosion in a further two Autonomous Communities, as well as in the 10 already covered in the previous edition of this report. The percentage of land affected by low and very low erosion rates stands at 53.27% (soil loss below 12 tonnes per ha per year), whilst the percentage affected by extreme, very high and high rates stands at 12.64% (soil loss above 50 tonnes per ha per year). Meanwhile, 11.09% of Spain's geography is considered to be at very high risk of desertification.

Royal Decree 9/2005 (*RD 9/2005*) has changed the criteria used to classify land as contaminated. In line with European methodology, it establishes a list of potential soil-contaminating activities. The corresponding authority within each Autonomous Community must then declare affected land as contaminated, a step that makes the introduction of remediation measures compulsory. This indicator will be updated in future editions of this report once the data available from each Autonomous Community are brought into line with that established in Royal Decree 9/2005.

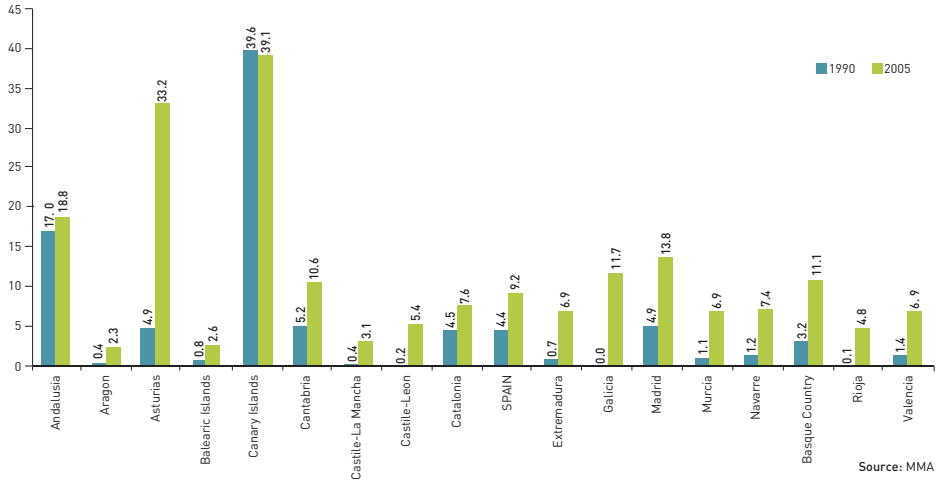
NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Spain has one of the greatest degrees of biodiversity anywhere in Europe and is home to almost 80,000 classified taxa. More than 80% of vascular plants present in the EU are found in Spain, whilst almost half of Europe's endemic species are Spanish. The number of endemic species of fauna found in Spain is also significant, particularly in several specific locations.

The amount of protected area has increased: in 2005 protected areas covered 9.16% of Spain's geography. Moreover, this percentage rises to 26.3% if areas designated as part of the Natura 2000 Network are included. 20.8% of the EU25's total area designated as Special Protection Area (SPA) for birdlife is found in Spain. In this regard, as well as in terms of proportion of total area designated as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), Spain heads the table in the EU25.

According to provisional data reported in the 3rd Spanish National Forest Inventory (IFN3 – *III Inventario Forestal Nacional*), Spain's forest area could exceed 27 million ha, equal to

PAs AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AREA (%)



Source: MMA

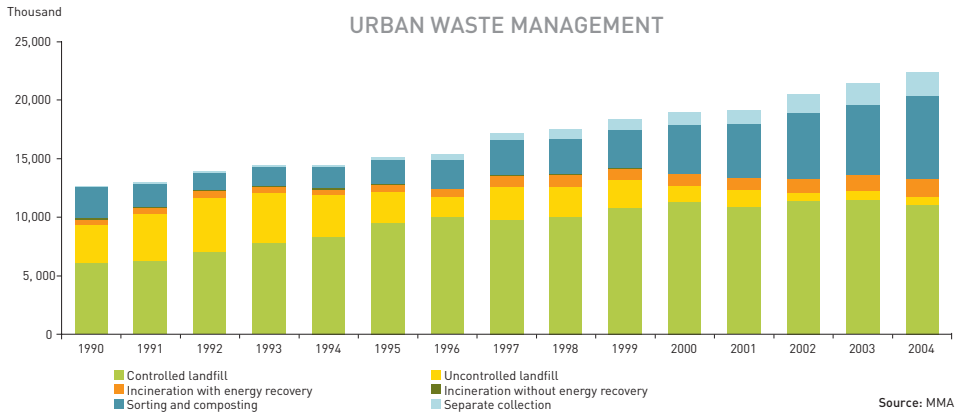
54% of the country's total land area. During the period between this Inventory and the previous one, completed in 1996, there was a 34.1% increase in wooded forest area (based on provisional figures from the IFN3). Common Agricultural Policy measures and specific conservation plans in several Autonomous Communities have undoubtedly contributed to this increase.

In 2006, the number of species included in the Spanish National Catalogue of Endangered Species (*Catálogo Nacional de Especies Amenazadas*) rose to 603. New Conservation Strategies have been approved for these species, which include the Cantabrian brown bear, Iberian lynx, bearded vulture, Spanish imperial eagle, Cantabrian capercaillie, wolf, white-headed duck, European mink and Balearic shearwater.

The preliminary data taken as the starting point for the Spanish National Wetlands Inventory (*Inventario Nacional de Zonas Húmedas*) identify 2,559 wetlands in Spain, of which approximately 17% are protected under one of the various schemes. In 2006, the number of Spanish wetlands included in the "List of Wetlands of International Importance" rose to 64, 3.9% of Ramsar wetlands worldwide and 7.3% of the European total.

It is also worth highlighting the increase in environmental monitoring and the creation of a specific Public Prosecutor's office to pursue environmental offences (Act 10/2006 (*Ley 10/2006*), of 28 April, reforming the Forests Act (*Ley de Montes*)). In 2005, the Nature Protection Service of the Civil Guard (SEPRONA - *Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza de la Guardia Civil*) reported 162,520 offences (criminal and administrative) and 852 individuals went before the courts in connection with an environmental offence.

WASTE



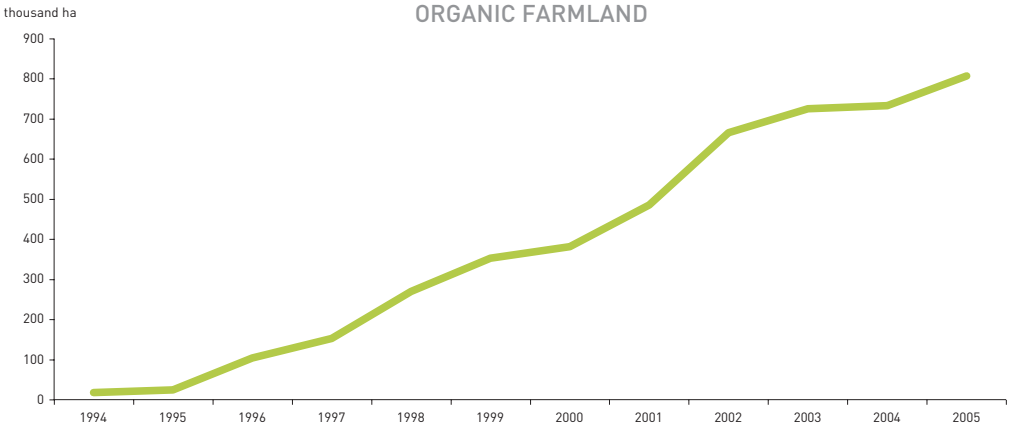
The volume of urban waste generated in Spain (524.5 kg/inhab/year in 2004) is slightly below the EU15 figure (567 kg/inhab/year), but the growth rate is higher, indicating that EU15 levels will be reached shortly. Over the period 1990-2004, urban waste generation per inhabitant rose 62.2%, with a total of 22,735,142 tonnes being produced in 2004.

Disposal of urban waste is shifting appreciably towards more environmentally-friendly methods. Over a decade, the percentage of waste sent to sorting and composting plants has risen from 12% to 32%. In 2005, 59% of paper consumed was collected for recycling, practically the same figure as the European average (60%). Although the collection rate is increasing, the recycling rate is stabilising. Glass recycling continues to grow, although it does display slight fluctuations. In 2005, the glass recycling rate reached 45%, an increase of 10% on the previous year. However, Spain is still low down the list in this respect in comparison with its European counterparts.

As regards packaging waste, in 2004 the recycling rate stood at 47.4%, approaching the 55% target set for 2009. The energy recovery rate also increased and is now close to achieving the 2009 target of 60%. More than 39 million Spanish citizens have access to a separate collection system for lightweight packaging. In 2005, the Ecoembes Integrated Management System recovered 63% of packaging placed on the market.

The growing level of wastewater treatment is creating a rise in sewage sludge production, which in 2005 increased by 2.6% on 2004 and grew by 62.6% over the period 1997-2005. Agriculture is the main recipient of this sludge, using over 726,000 tonnes in 2005 (close to 65% of the total generated).

AGRICULTURE



Source: Compiled in-house from MAPA data

The agricultural sector's GVA[1] (at constant prices) fell by 3.2% between 2000 and 2004. This reduction in economic activity in the sector is consistent with falls in other variables, such as fertiliser consumption. Over the period 2000-2005, consumption of phytosanitary products increased by 16% and the trend was towards greater consumption applied to a smaller area.

Fertiliser consumption reached its peak in 2003, at 149.3 kg/ha. However, a fall is evident from this point onwards, with consumption dropping to 121.4 kg/ha in 2005, a reduction of 13.2% compared with the figure for 2000.

There was also positive news as regards area devoted to organic farming, which between 1991 and 2005 increased in size 190 times. In 2005, the amount of organic farmland stood at 807,569.27 ha. There were 17,509 operators employed in the sector, of which 15,693 were organic crop and livestock farmers.

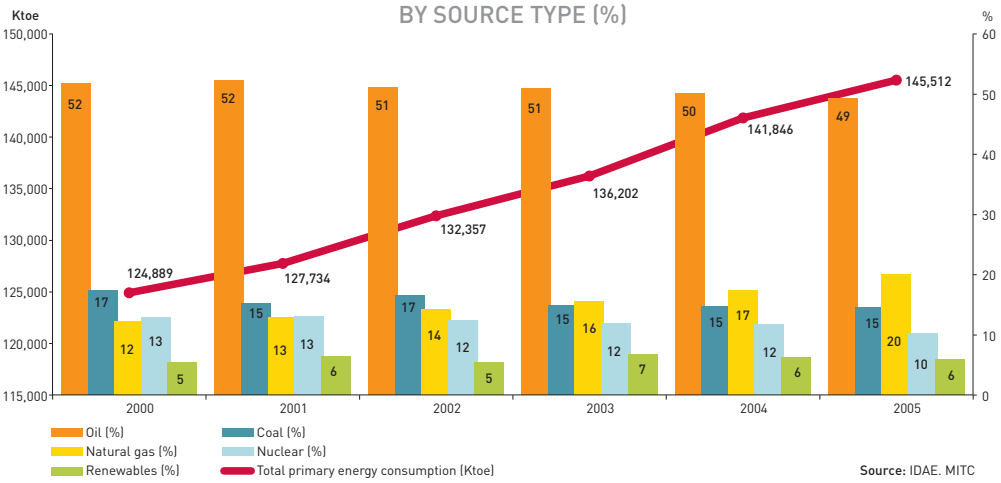
According to provisional data provided by the MAPA, 2005 showed an increase in irrigated area as a proportion of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA). This rise is probably due to a decrease in dry-farmed crops and means that irrigated area now stands at 13.6% of UAA. This change has an impact on the environment, as the shortage of water resources is exacerbated by rising consumption in other sectors. The situation could be compensated for by the action programmes being carried out under the Spanish National Irrigation Plan (*Plan Nacional de Regadíos*). Irrigated agriculture contributes over 50% of final agricultural output, although it only accounts for 13.6% of utilised agricultural area and 7% of Spain's total area.

(1) GVA for agriculture includes agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry.

As regards pollutant emissions, there was a fall of almost 4% in emissions of acidifying and nitrifying gases over the period 2000-2005. There was also a reduction of 11.1% in ozone precursors over the same period, while Greenhouse Gas emissions decreased by 3.5%.

ENERGY

ANNUAL PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION (Ktoe) AND BREAKDOWN BY SOURCE TYPE (%)



Source: IDAE. MITC

Unlike in the rest of the European Union, primary energy consumption has progressively increased over the last decade in Spain. CO_2 emissions by the energy production sector rose by 8.4% over the 1990-2005 period, displaying significant fluctuations partly associated with annual hydrological conditions. Total GHG emissions from energy transformation over the 1990-2005 period grew by 61.6%, an increase greater than that seen in total GHG emissions which, over the same period, rose by 52.2%.

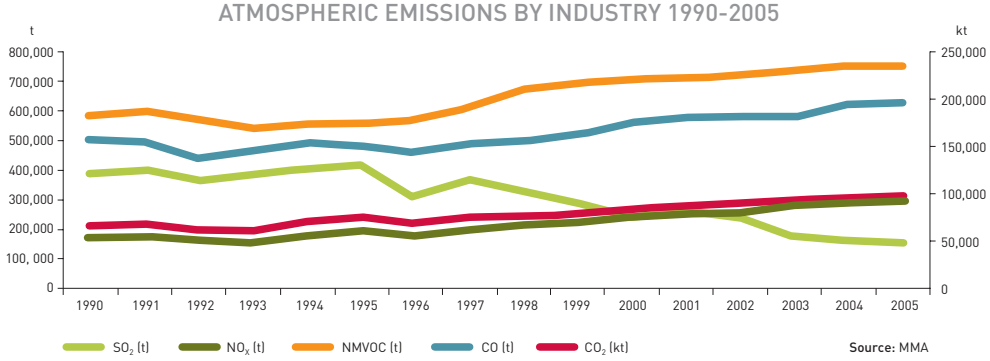
Renewable energy use increased by 26.11% between 2000 and 2005. Nonetheless, its contribution to total primary energy consumption remained stable at 6%, as primary energy consumption also increased.

In the breakdown of energy consumption by source type, growth in use of natural gas, stability in nuclear energy, and the variations in hydroelectric power generation associated with annual hydrological conditions are all worthy of particular note.

Primary energy consumption and GHGs generated by energy production both rose (although with fluctuations) at a rate above GDP, which reflects a certain degree of environmental inefficiency in the sector.

INDUSTRY

ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS BY INDUSTRY 1990-2005



In general, atmospheric emissions by industry are increasing in Spain. The only exception to this trend are SO_2 emissions, which decreased by 61.5% over the period 1990-2005, a change associated with desulphurisation of combustion gas and the switch from other fuels to natural gas. Emissions of ozone precursors are generally stable, though they do show an upward trend. The hydrological conditions in 2005 led to an increase in use of fossil fuels in energy production. As regards emissions of fluorinated gases, in 2005 SF_6 and HFCs both increased, whilst PFC emissions dropped considerably.

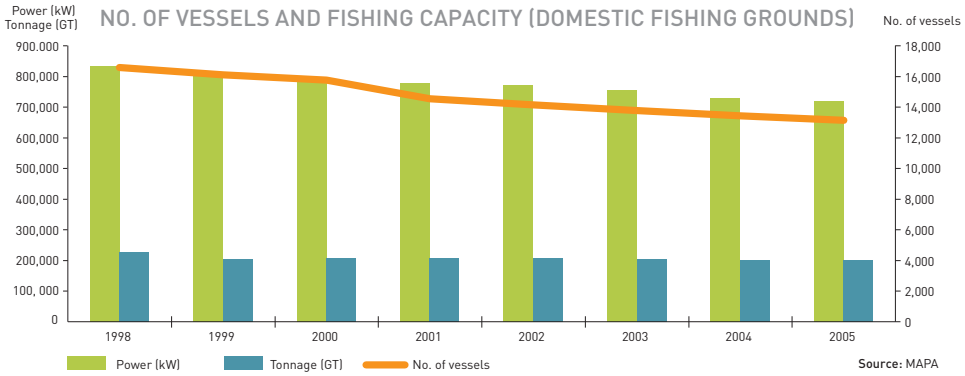
Energy consumption by industry continues to rise. Use of petroleum products is diminishing and consumption of natural gas is on the increase, almost tripling over the period 1995-2005. As regards total energy consumption, the percentage of final energy consumption by industry is decreasing and stood at 32.5% in Spain in 2004, a figure above EU levels.

Showing a slight fluctuation in 2001, Total Material Requirement continues to rise, especially as regards domestic raw materials extraction, which went up 22% over the period 2000-2003.

There was also a significant increase in the number of Spanish companies signed up to the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or holding ISO 14001 certification. In fact, Spain holds second place in the ranking by number of companies registered with EMAS.

Economic growth in the industrial sector went hand-in-hand with a slightly higher rise in CO_2 emissions. Final energy consumption also increased, although from 2003 onwards there have been signs that this is being decoupled from economic growth. Total Material Requirement is growing in parallel to development in the sector. There are also signs of some decoupling as regards emissions of acidifying gases and ozone precursors.

FISHING



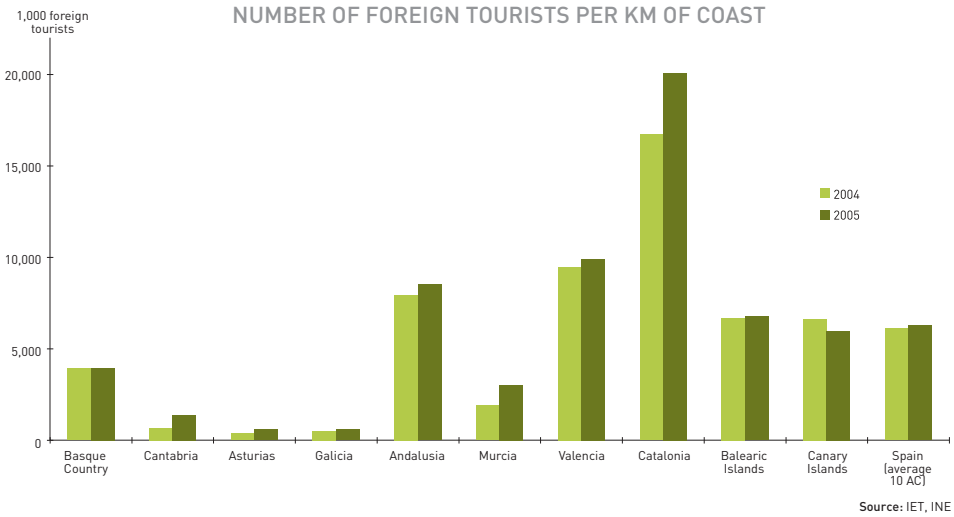
The decrease in the size of the Spanish fishing fleet (in terms of number of vessels and capacity) between 2004 and 2005 accounted for 20.3% of the reduction in the total EU15 fleet. The number of vessels fell from 14,071 at 31 December 2004 to 13,694 at 31 December 2005. Total catches also fell once more, with the overall decrease over the period 1994-2004 standing at 22.07%. During the same period, catches in adjacent waters fell by 25.26%.

Although showing an upward trend, aquaculture nonetheless recorded sharp fluctuations in output due, above all, to rises and falls in mussel production. Fish farming recorded continued growth and, in 2005, production stood at 30,497 tonnes.

TOURISM

The number of non-resident tourists increased on the previous year. In 2005, more than 55.6 million non-Spanish citizens chose Spain as a holiday destination, a 6% increase on the 2004 figure. This increase was also reflected in revenue, which rose by 4.3%. According to data provided by Spain's Active Population Survey (EPA – *Encuesta de Población Activa*) as regards employment generated in the sector, in 2005 2.3 million people worked in tourism-related fields, 4.8% more than in 2004.

This chapter presents indicators portraying the increase in the number of foreign tourists per resident, modes of transport used to arrive in Spain (with a growing predominance of air travel), number of foreign tourists per kilometre of coast, changes in the Tourist Population Equivalent (i.e. the proportion of the visiting population in relation to the host population), and finally the number of visitors to National Parks. This final indicator showed a significant fall in 2004-2005.



Source: IET, INE

In terms of modes of transport, a new factor has made dramatic inroads over recent years: low-cost airlines (LCAs) brought in more than 15 million tourists in 2005, 29.7% of all arrivals by air (51.4 million). This transport mode is booming and, in 2005, usage increased by 30.8% on the previous year.

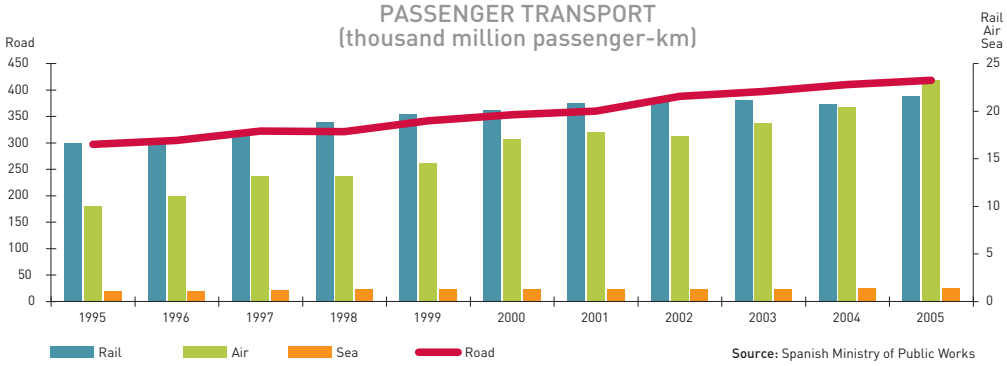
Sustainability in tourism involves increasing alternatives to avoid concentration, overcrowding and seasonality, encouraging inland tourism and a change in inland travel habits, promoting more sustainable modes of transport.

TRANSPORT

Over the period 1995-2005, road passenger transport grew by 40.7%, rail by 30.3% and sea by 43.4%. Road transport remains the most widely used mode, although air transport has seen greatest growth since 1990 (131.7% over the above-mentioned period). Road transport also predominates in goods carriage, accounting for 85% of total goods transport in 2005.

Over the period 1990-2005, greenhouse gas emissions by transport rose by 78.3%, while those of acidifying gases fell by 2.7%. Meanwhile, emissions of tropospheric ozone precursor gases by transport dropped by 32.5%. Despite technological advances, vehicles' CO_2 emissions were not reduced, as there were increases both in vehicle fleet size and usage. There was a clear reduction, however, in NO_x emissions. Although showing slight fluctuations, final energy consumption by transport stood at 37.5% of the total.

Waste generated by transport, some of it hazardous, requires specific management. In 2004, treatment of end-of-life tyres increased, dumping as landfill fell and recycling and energy recovery rose.



The high number of accidents and victims caused every year by road transport has been falling since 1989. Over the period 1990-2005, the number of fatalities fell by 36.1% at the same time as the vehicle fleet increased by more than 76%.

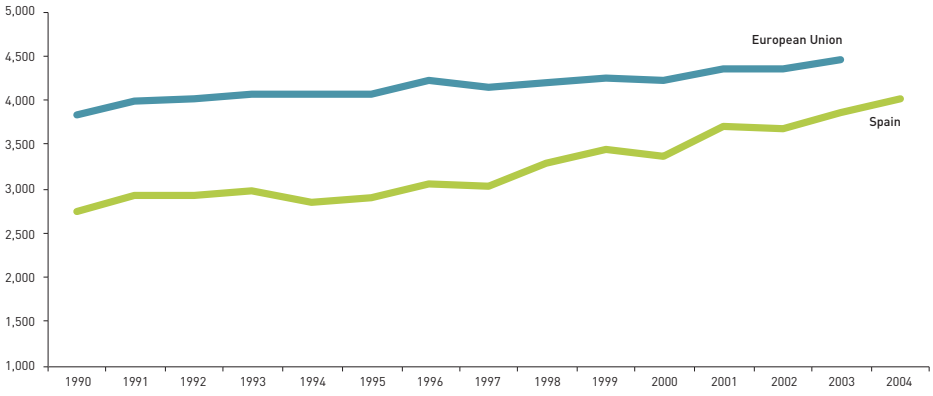
There is no sign of growth in the sector being decoupled from the pressure that it exerts on the environment: over the period 1995-2005, GDP rose by 38.4% while passenger transport grew by 43%, goods transport by 60.3% and GHG emissions by transport increased by 54.5%.

HOUSEHOLDS

The household sector is defined in terms of two parameters: housing units and households. In 2001, there were 20.9 million family housing units, of which 2.5 million were considered empty and almost 3 million were second homes. Over the period 2001-2005, almost 3 million housing units were built in Spain, bringing the total stock to nearly 24 million.

As regards households, these stood at 14.2 million (2001) and comprised 40.8 million inhabitants. This figure coincides with that for family housing units, i.e., the place of habitual residence. The recent influx of immigrants raised the resident population to 44 million (2005) and the number of households to 14.5 million. In this context, the chapter analyses indicators related to the number of passenger cars per household, waste generation, energy consumption, CO_2 emissions, water consumption and gross disposable household income.

ELECTRICITY INTENSITY IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR (KWh/household)



Source: IDAE, MITyC

The passenger car fleet continues to grow, standing at 19.5 million units in 2004. In the same year, 1.6 million new passenger cars were registered (77% of the total number of new vehicles). The average number of passenger cars per household in Spain is now 1.34. Five Autonomous Communities, as well as Ceuta and Melilla, recorded figures above this level.

Annual average urban waste production per household climbed from 1,420 t/household in 1998 to 1,565 t/household in 2004. In the same year, Spain generated 526 kg/inhabitant per year, a rise of 6% on the previous year. This figure was below the EU15 average, which reached 577 kg/inhabitant per year in 2003.

Energy consumption attributed to Spanish households rose by almost 4% in 2004 compared with 2003. Spain, with a figure of 1.12 toe/household, has one of the lowest household energy consumption rates in Europe, although it is rising fast.

The residential sector was responsible for 5.34% of total CO_2 emitted into the atmosphere in 2005 and contributed to Greenhouse Gas concentrations by the same proportion. These figures mean that each household produced around 1.3 tonnes of CO_2 in 2004, an amount below the European average. Over the period 1990-2005, these emissions went up by 51.6%, representing an average annual increase of 3.4%. However, in 2005 this figure only rose by 0.8% on 2004.

Water consumption by Spanish households in 2004 stood at 2,701 hm^3, rising by 3.76% on the previous year. Household consumption accounted for 67% of total water distributed for public urban use. Consumption per inhabitant per day stood at 171 litres, 4 litres more than the year before. Over the period 1996-2004, average consumption per inhabitant per day rose by 25 litres in absolute terms, equivalent to 17%.

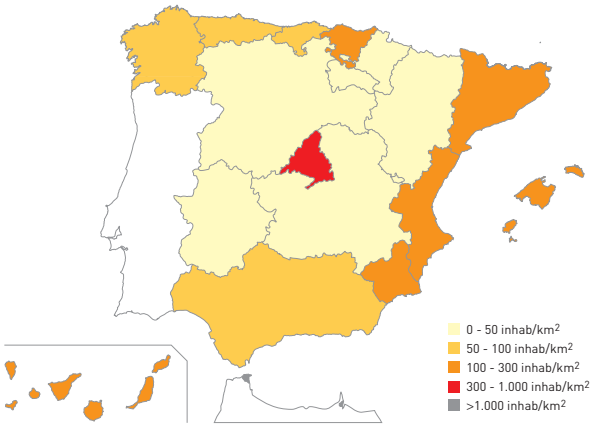
Average gross disposable income per household in 2003 stood at 35,285, representing an increase of 11.2% since 2000. By Autonomous Community, the highest levels of disposable income were found in households in Navarre, the Basque Country and Madrid. Breaking this figure down to an individual level reveals that gross disposable income per person in 2003 stood at 11,918. Levels above this average were also found in the three aforementioned Autonomous Communities.

URBAN ENVIRONMENT

In Spain, 1,000 municipalities (large and small urban areas) covering an area of 96,000 km^2 and consisting of 11 million main housing units are home to 34 million people. One of the characteristics of current urban growth is the tendency towards more scattered settlement beyond traditional city limits.

The indicator that measures growth of cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants (Urban pressure on land) compares the population living in these municipalities with each Autonomous Community's total land area. In 2005, this ratio stood at 67.86 inhabitants per km^2 nationwide, an increase of 10% since 2000. Highest urban density is found in Ceuta and Melilla, followed by Madrid, the Basque Country, the Canary Islands and Catalonia. The biggest percentage changes were recorded in the Autonomous Communities that received the highest number of immigrants.

URBAN DENSITY BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY, 2005 (inhab/km^2)



The indicator tracking air quality in the urban environment, which provides information regarding averages for groups of municipalities, reveals the following changes:

- Positive trend in nitrogen dioxide concentration levels: concentration decreased, although levels in cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants still exceed the 2010 target.

- Average annual particulate matter (PM_{10}) concentration levels showed a clear downward trend, recording figures below the established limit. Nonetheless, the limit figure for the number of days in which daily concentrations are above 50 $\mu g/m^3$ is still being exceeded.

- There is a rising trend in the number of days per year in which average daily concentration levels exceed 120 $\mu g/m^3$, although in 2005 this was still below the target of 25 days/year set for 2010.

Local mobility and passenger transport are analysed on the basis of data provided by Public Transport Authorities (*Autoridades de Transporte Público*) in 13 metropolitan areas with an overall resident population of 18.5 million. Both population and number of annual journeys in these areas increased in 2004. Madrid headed the table in terms of number of journeys by public transport per inhabitant per year (252.3), followed by Corunna, Bilbao, Barcelona and Valencia.

In the modal breakdown of work-related journeys, private vehicles constituted the most widely used mode, exceeding 50% of journeys in all of the metropolitan areas except Barcelona and Madrid. The modal breakdown of non-work-related journeys revealed that city-dwellers prefer to travel on foot: the highest percentage being 60% in Bilbao, followed by Madrid.

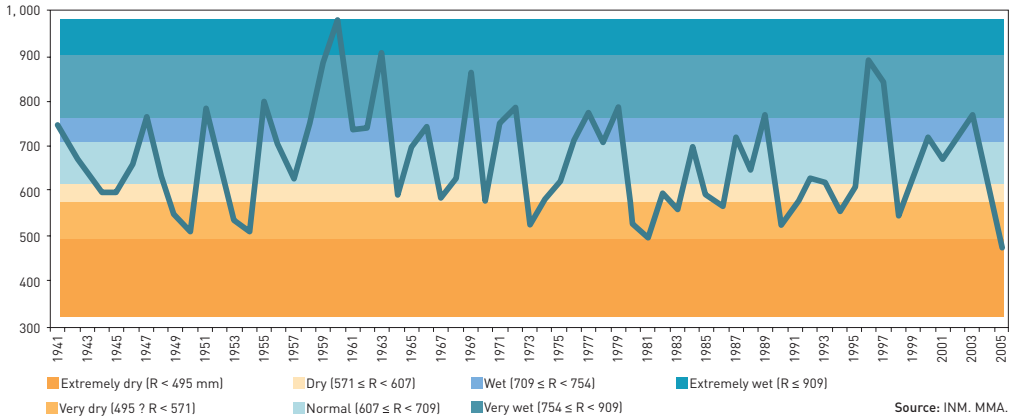
As regards environmental noise, strategic noise maps are currently being drawn up for 6,000 km of the State Highways Network (*Red de Carreteras del Estado*) that connect and affect Spain's major population centres. This report presents the conclusions of a pilot study carried out on the A-42 (Madrid-Toledo) motorway that passes through 23 municipal districts in the Autonomous Communities of Madrid and Castile-La Mancha and analyses the area exposed to traffic noise and the number of housing units, hospitals, education centres and people exposed to varying noise levels.

In quantitative terms, Spain's Protected Historical Heritage developed positively over the period 1990-2005, and 15,000 buildings are now classified as protected monuments, historic environments, historic sites, archaeological sites and historic gardens. This last category was the only one to see a slight decrease in numbers. Over the period 1984-2003, 37 locations were declared World Heritage Sites by Unesco, many of them significant areas of Spain's historic cities.

Finally, 23.4% of Spain's municipalities are covered by a 'Network of Networks' set up to implement local sustainability policies. In total, 1,896 towns and cities are involved in processes related to Local Agenda 21, covering a population of around 19 million inhabitants.

NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL IN SPAIN (mm)



Source: INM. MMA.

Spain regularly suffers periods of drought. The hydrological year running from October 2005 to September 2006 produced a major deficit in several river basins, among them the Tagus, Guadiana, Guadalquivir, Segura and Júcar.

The number of fatalities due to natural disasters varies from year to year depending on the occurrence of phenomena such as floods and spates, storms, maritime storms, forest fires, etc. Forest fires stand out particularly in the 2005 statistics following the 11 deaths caused by a fire in Guadalajara. Looking beyond these tragedies, every year the average area affected by fire decreases, thanks above all to faster response speeds and improvements in fire-extinguishing equipment and techniques.

As regards goods transport, the number of rail accidents causing possible environmental damage fell, whilst the upward trend (with slight fluctuations) in the number of road accidents causing possible environmental damage was maintained. There was also a reduction in the number of oil spills due to maritime accidents.

In 2005 there were no major accidents at facilities covered by the Seveso Directive.