As a cross sectional matter **environmental data** are provided by many areas of statistics. They refer both to **physical** and **monetary** terms as environment statistics mainly deals with social and economic activities and their environmental impacts and the state and changes of media (soil, water, air, etc) as well. Environment statistics is supplemented by data on activities of the government (e. g. compulsory use of catalytic converters in vehicles), enterprises, households as well as international organisations reacting on present or imminent impairments by environmental pollution.

Basically the tasks of environment statistics refer to

- Environmental transactions within the System of National Accounts (SNA) (Environmental Protection Expenditure, Environmental Taxes – "Eco-Taxes", Environmental Goods and Services);
- Material Flow Accounts and Physical Accounts (Material flows, natural resources, nutrients, goods, water, emissions);
- Linkage of monetary data and economic indicators with respect to the environmental burden of pollutant emissions for example in the framework of a NAMEA matrix (National Accounting Matrix including Environmental Accounts);
- Aspects of environmental quality (e. g. water, soil, eco systems, biodiversity, landscape, etc.) and
- Natural resource accounts (to a certain extent).

All these activities are subsumed under the notion **Environmental Accounts**.

Since 2003 the work on Environmental Accounts is carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

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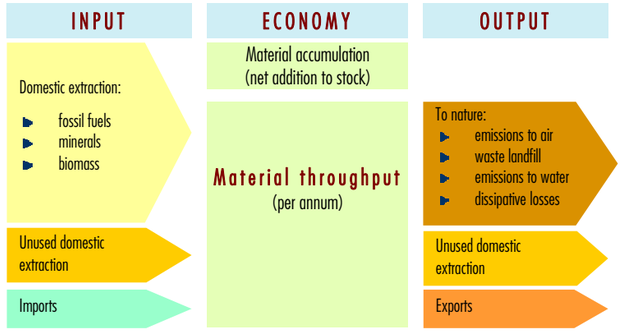
Published and produced by: STATISTIK AUSTRIA. Internet: www.statistik.at
Statistics Austria, 1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13

MATERIAL FLOWS

Material Flow Accounts provide a periodical image of the physical exchange processes between society and nature.

For Austria the material throughput is described for the three big flows – mineral materials, biomass and fossil fuels.

Each category group is analysed, commencing with primary extraction, followed by production and final consumption. In the framework of sustainability discussion the observation of these global streams provides information about the consumption of non-renewable resources and how far the use of renewable resources is sustainable respectively. Over the time success or failure in dematerialising our resource intensive lifestyles can be highlighted.



WOOD ACCOUNTS

Wood accounts are annually compiled within the scope of natural resource accounts. Thereby also the impacts of forest cultivation for the CO_2 cycle are addressed.

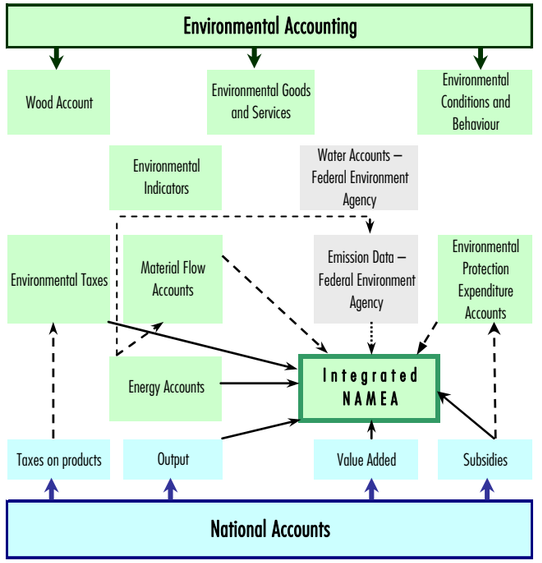
The largest share of the Austrian wood demand (timber, like pulpwood and fuel wood) is covered by domestic logging. In addition log wood, sawn wood, chaff and sawdust are imported.

This amount of wood supplemented by lea wood (park and avenue trees, etc.), which is mainly used as fuel wood, bark and chaff as well as recycled wood (waste wood and demolition wood which mainly originates from construction and is provided for - mostly energetic - reuse) adds up to the annual quantity of wood.

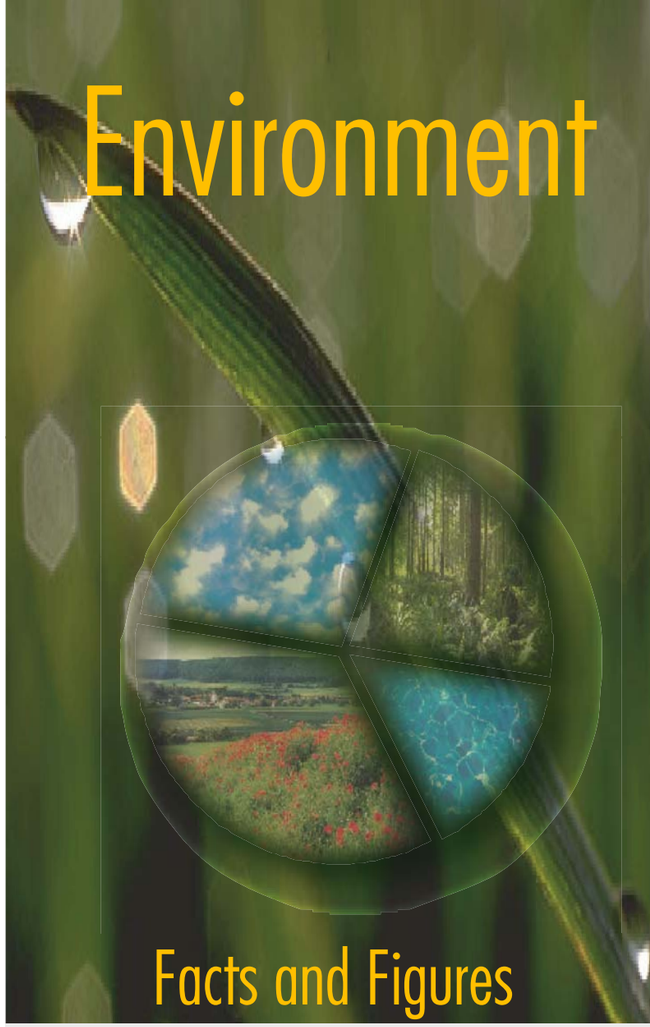
The natural resource wood is used in different branches of industry, especially in the wood-working industry, like sawmilling of wood, manufacturing of pulp and paper or forestry. A large part of wood is provided for energetic use. Furthermore log wood, sawn wood, chaff and sawdust are exported.

NAMEA

The basic idea of a NAMEA (National Accounting Matrix including Environmental Accounts) is the harmonisation of economic and environmental data to allow for a direct comparison of parameters of both dimensions in a sectoral structure. Such comparisons shift the focus from economic results to consumed natural resources and emitted emissions respectively. This perspective can analytically be used for political measures if the consequences of international trade for climate are taken into account. Direct comparisons between different branches or the generation of branch averages can be used for setting targets, which in turn constitute the framework for the development of emission reduction strategies as well as environment improvement strategies. Then these strategies can provide decision guidance for policy makers or for company investment decisions.



Environment



Facts and Figures

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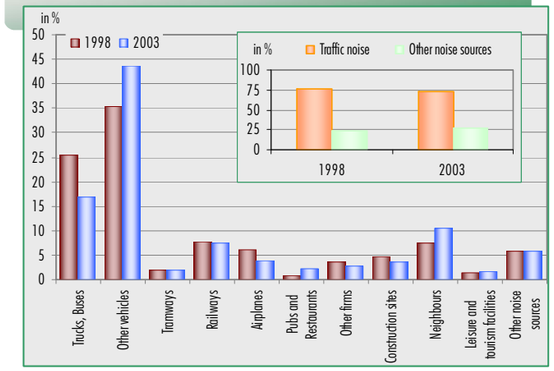
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND BEHAVIOUR

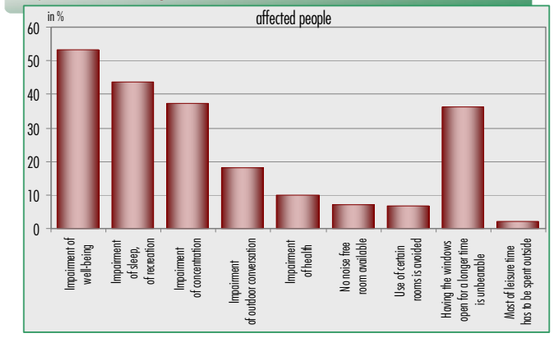
Monitoring the environmental conditions and environmental behaviour of the population within the scope of household surveys of Micro census is the oldest part of environmental reporting at Statistics Austria. On the one hand linkages of environmental and socio-economic attributes are enabled and on the other hand the positions of people affected by environmental problems as well as of their producers are pointed out. The last survey in December 2003 showed inter alia that the burden of the Austrian people from noise decreases since the 1970's but yet it is the most common burden. Still the main producer is (road) traffic.

Source of noise 1998 and 2003



Asked for the consequences of this burden the main answer is the subjective feeling of restricted well-being.

Impact of noise in housings 2003



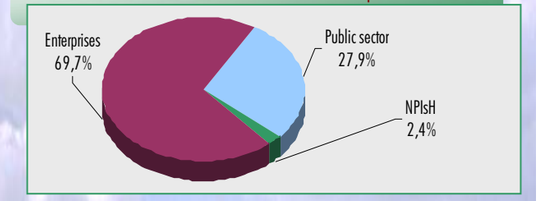
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Environmental Protection Expenditure Account annually describes production, consumption and finance of environmental protection activities for individual environmental domains as well as for institutional sectors (General government, Non Profit Institutions serving Households (NPISHs), corporations, households, the rest of the world. Basis for the calculation of environmental protection expenditure is the EU-wide methodology of SERIEE (European System for the Collection of Economic Information on the Environment). In European usage environmental protection *„groups together all actions and activities that are aimed at the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution as well as any other degradation of the environment"*.

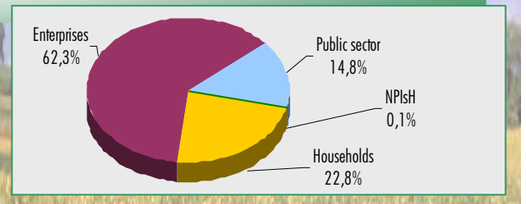
The following questions are addressed:

- Who performs environmental protection activities?
- Who consumes environmental protection activities?
- Who finances environmental protection activities?

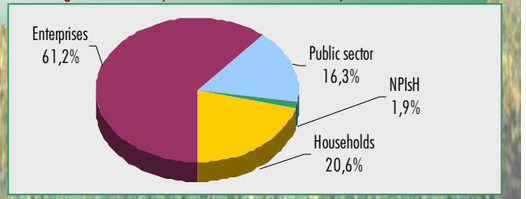
Production of characteristic services for environmental protection 2003



National expenditure for environmental protection by users 2003



Financing of national expenditure for environmental protection 2003



ECO-TAXES

In 1998 guidelines for the compilation of environmental taxes (Eco-Taxes) were developed at international level (European Commission, OECD and International Energy Agency).

Environmental taxes are taxes whose tax base has a proved harmful effect on the environment, e. g. a process or product which pollutes the environment or threatens the nature as well as consumes non-renewable resources.

The aim of environmental taxes is to internalise external environmental costs focusing on limitation of environmental burden and responsible use of natural resources by producers as well as consumers.

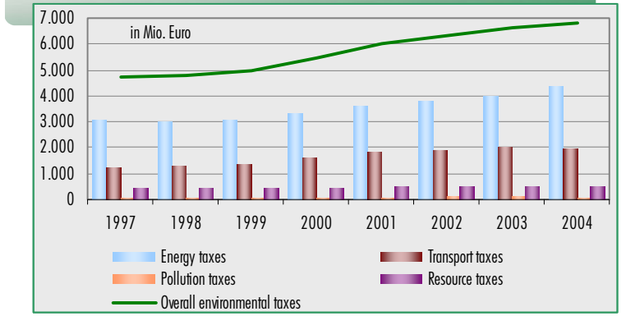
For interpretation the following aspects should be taken into account: On the one hand low environmental tax revenues can be the result of successful implementation of environmental taxes and therefore of reducing environmental harmful activities or products but on the other hand the reason can also be a use of that instrument to a minor degree as well as a combination of both effects.

Environmental taxes are inter alia taxes on vehicles, on landfill sites but also on emissions into air and water.

They are grouped into the following categories:

- Energy taxes
- Transport taxes
- Pollution taxes
- Resource taxes

Environmental taxes 1997 - 2004



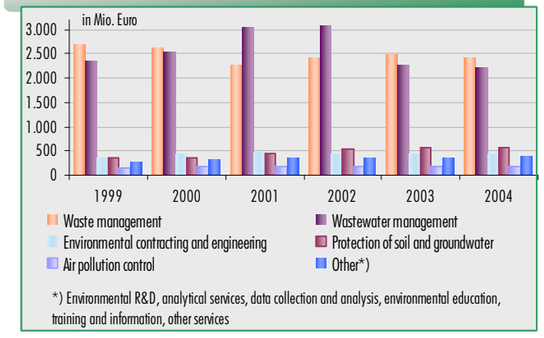
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The annual calculation of environmental products and services, the so-called „Environment industries", is carried out based on the common OECD/EUROSTAT guidelines.

Data are described in the tables with reference to the actors as well as to the environmental purposes.

Within the scope of this work the objective is to describe those activities (products and services) by what benefits for the environment are generated. Examples are manufacture of machinery and equipment, provision of services or realisation of construction works with respect to restoration of emerged or prevention of imminent environmental damages.

Provision of services 1999-2004



The main share of these activities is services, dominated by wastewater and waste treatment.

Environmental production of both domains „Manufacture of equipment, technologies and specific materials" and „Construction works" is nearly the same.