

Environmental protection expenditure by industry in the European Union

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Industry in the EU spent about 33 billion euro on environmental protection in 1999, according to recent Eurostat estimates. This is equal to 0.4% of total EU GDP or 2% of total industry gross value added (see Table 1).

Most money invested in new equipment focuses on improving ambient air and combating climate change. Half of the money aims at preventing the actual generation of pollution at the source, which may directly contribute to de-coupling environmental pressure from economic growth. According to the European Commission Enterprise DG, environmental protection measures have contributed to a significant de-coupling in manufacturing industry in the 1990s, in particular as regards emissions of acidifying substances such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (*European competitiveness report 2002*).

Environmental protection activities do not only result in extra costs. They can generate substantial benefits to society in terms of human health and improved environment. They also create new markets for environmental goods and services. The Environment DG has identified the environment technology sector as a key to sustainable development: it can boost economic growth and help protect the environment. Based on environmental expenditure data, it has been estimated that the total turnover of the EU eco-industry sector was 183 billion euro in 1999 (a figure corresponding to 2.3% of EU GDP) and some 1.6 million people were directly employed in this sector (1% of total employment). It is expected that this market will continue to see high growth rates in the future. (*Environmental technology for sustainable development, COM (2002) 122*).

Figure 1: Environmental protection expenditure by industry in the EU in 1999 by transaction; (Eurostat estimate)

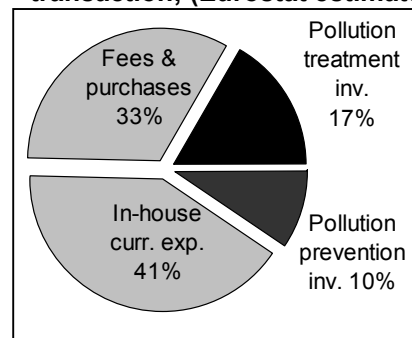


Table 1: Environmental protection expenditure by industry in the EU in 1999; (Eurostat estimate)

	Total (million euro)	Air	Waste-water	Waste	Other	% of GDP	% of GVA	euro per capita
Total capital expenditure	8 724	42%	27%	12%	20%	0.11%	0.52%	23
<i>of which</i>								
Pollution treatment	5 530	40%	29%	12%	19%	0.07%	0.33%	15
Pollution prevention	3 194	44%	23%	11%	22%	0.04%	0.19%	9
Total current expenditure	24 636	17%	30%	35%	18%	0.31%	1.48%	66
<i>of which</i>								
In-house	13 614	27%	30%	22%	22%	0.17%	0.82%	36
Fees/purchases	11 021	4%	31%	50%	15%	0.14%	0.66%	29
Total EPE	33 360	23%	29%	29%	19%	0.42%	2.00%	89

GDP is Gross domestic product for the whole economy

GVA is Gross value added for industry

Statistics in focus

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

THEME 8 – 14/2002

ENVIRONMENT

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Total environmental protection expenditure

Each year industry in most EU Member States spends an amount representing between 1.5 and 2.5 percent of industrial gross value added (GVA) on environmental protection. As can be seen in **Figure 2**, industry in Austria and Germany spends most when measured as a share of GVA (over 2.5%) or as a share of GDP (nearly 0.6%). The significantly lower figures for Italy, Spain and Ireland could be an indication that the data reported underestimate the actual expenditure.

On average, about 30 percent of total environmental protection expenditure in the EU is on new machinery and equipment and 70 percent is current expenditure (payments for energy, material, labour and purchases of environmental services). However, the relative importance of capital and current expenditure differs greatly among Member States.

A substantial proportion of current expenditure is spent on the operation of environmental equipment, and this increases as the size of the total capital stock increases. One would therefore expect a country in a phase of building up or substantially upgrading the environmental capital stock to have relatively high investments and relatively low current expenditure. Countries where much of the capital stock is in place and where no major new upgrading takes place would on the other hand have relatively low investments and high current expenditure. In this respect, the EU Member States can be divided into two groups:

- In most north European Member States, investments account for between 20 and 30 percent of total environmental protection expenditure by industry.
- Industry in IRL, I, E, P and EL on the other hand spends between 50 and 60 percent of the total expenditure on new machinery and equipment, which is similar to the situation in many of the Accession Countries.

Figure 2: Environmental protection expenditure by industry as percent of GVA,

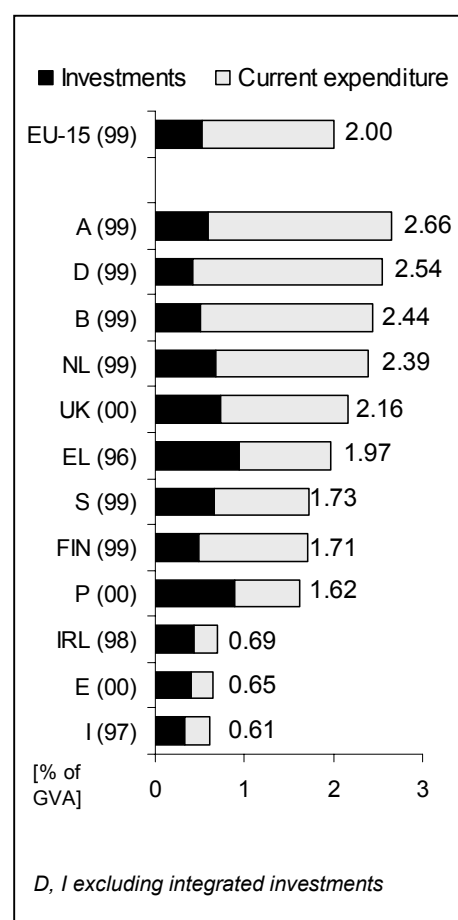


Table 2: Environmental protection expenditure by industry

	1996 1997 1998 1999 2000					Latest available year			of which investments (%)
	(million euro)					% of GDP	% of GVA	euro per capita	
Belgium	:	:	:	1 165	:	0.49	2.44	114	21
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Germany 1)	:	11 082	8 974	9 126	:	0.59	2.54	135	16
Greece	281	:	:	:	:	0.29	1.97	27	48
Spain	:	681	824	1 000	1 455	0.24	0.65	37	60
France	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	166	:	:	0.21	0.69	45	63
Italy 2)	:	1 392	:	:	:	0.14	0.61	24	54
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands 3)	:	1 393	1 269	1 662	:	0.44	2.39	105	29
Austria	1 230	1 317	1 208	1 142	:	0.58	2.66	141	22
Portugal	219	180	261	340	444	0.39	1.62	44	55
Finland	577	554	525	490	:	0.41	1.71	95	29
Sweden	:	975	:	1 073	:	0.37	1.73	95	38
United Kingdom	:	6 175	:	6 030	6 931	0.44	2.16	116	34

1) Excluding integrated investments. 1998, 1999 excluding total current expenditure for energy&water. Latest available year refers to 1997.

2) Including only enterprises with 20 employees and more. Excluding integrated investments.

3) 1997-1998 excluding fees/purchases

Environmental protection expenditure by branch of industry

In most EU Member States, 'Manufacturing' accounts for more than 80 percent of the total amount of money industry spends on environmental protection, while 'Energy and water supply' accounts for about 10 percent and 'Mining and quarrying' only a minor share (see **Table 3**). The dominance of 'Energy and water supply' in Greece suggests that expenditure for public sewage treatment and similar activities performed by industrial companies (e.g. integrated water companies) might be included, though it would not be included in the industry sector in other Member States.

There are often a few specific industries in a country, with potentially high environmental impact, which account for the majority of spending on environmental protection. However, the relative importance of different industries varies according to the industry structure in the respective countries. **Figure 3** shows that the three highest spending industries account for between 45 and 75 percent of total industry spending on environmental protection. The most important industries in terms of environmental protection expenditure are:

- Chemicals, rubber & plastics, which is the highest spending industry in I, B, NL, D, F and E and the second highest in all other Member States except S, P and EL.
- Metal products, which is the industry with the highest spending in UK and A and the second highest in I, S, F, E and P.
- Food, beverages & tobacco, which is the industry which spends most in IRL and DK and is the second highest spending industry in NL.
- Pulp & paper, which is the industry with the highest spending in FIN and S.

Figure 3: Distribution of total industry environmental protection expenditure: three largest branches of industries, selected Member States

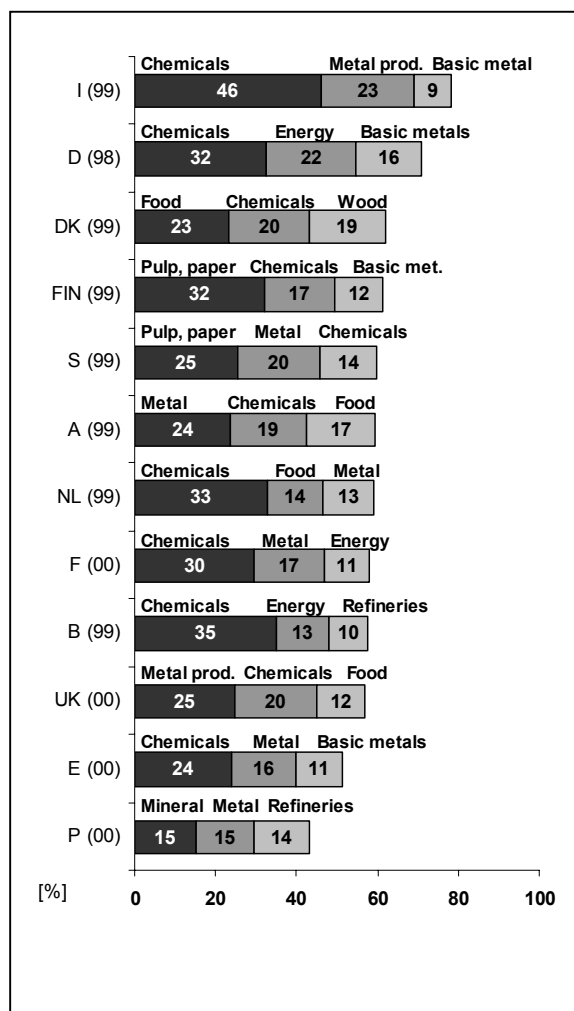


Table 3: Distribution of total industry environmental protection expenditure by branch of industry

	Mining & quarrying	Energy & water	Manufacturing	Food, beverages & tobacco	Textiles & leather	Wood & wood products	Pulp, paper & printing	Refineries	Chemicals plastics & rubber	Other non-metallic mineral	Basic metals	Metal products & other man.
	[% of total industry]											
B 99	0	13	87	9	3	2	7	10	35	6	8	9
DK 1) 99	0	15	85	23	0	19	2	0	20	13	0	7
D 2) 98	4	22	74	1	2	1	6	7	32	4	16	4
EL 96	:	73	27	6	3	0	1	8	3	2	4	1
E 00	2	9	89	10	4	1	9	7	24	7	11	16
F 3) 00	2	11	87	11	1	3	6	6	30	5	9	17
IRL 4) 98	:	9	91	24	:	:	:	:	24	:	:	:
I 1) 99	0	1	99	5	4	6	2	1	46	2	9	23
L :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL 99	6	8	86	14	2	1	5	7	33	3	9	13
A 99	4	6	90	17	2	2	8	0	19	6	12	24
P 00	3	5	92	11	11	3	11	14	10	15	3	15
FIN 99	2	8	90	7	1	2	32	5	17	4	12	9
S 99	2	10	87	9	:	2	25	:	14	5	9	20
UK 00	12	11	78	12	3	1	8	1	20	4	4	25

1) End-of-pipe investments only. Source Structural Business Statistics (SBS)

2) No integrated investments included. Estimate using 1997 for Energy and water. Excluding current expenditure for Food and Metal products industries.

3) Investments only

4) Some manufacturing industries not allocated

Environmental protection expenditure by environmental domain

Over 80 percent of the total spending on environmental protection by industry in the EU in 1999 was in the core environmental protection domains: air, wastewater or waste. The domain "other" includes Noise, Biodiversity and Soil protection, which could be important in some Member States and sectors, as well as general administration and other expenditure items that could not be broken down by domain.

The relative importance of different domains is related to the industry structure in the countries. A large energy sector based on fossil fuels could for example be one reason for relatively high expenditure in the air domain (Germany), while a large pulp and paper industry could be one explanation for high expenditure in the wastewater domain (Finland). There are also inherent differences in the capital intensity between the different environmental domains:

- Wastewater treatment and air protection are generally capital intensive activities. Measures to reduce air emissions account for most of the environmental protection investments in eight of the Member States, while industry in FIN, F and B invested most in measures to reduce emissions to water (including sewage treatment).
- Waste collection and treatment is more dependent on labour. Waste-related activities also account for most of the current expenditure on environmental protection in P, B, A, D and the UK, while wastewater accounted for most of the current expenditure in EL, I, FIN and the NL.

Figure 4: Environmental protection expenditure by industry by domain (%)

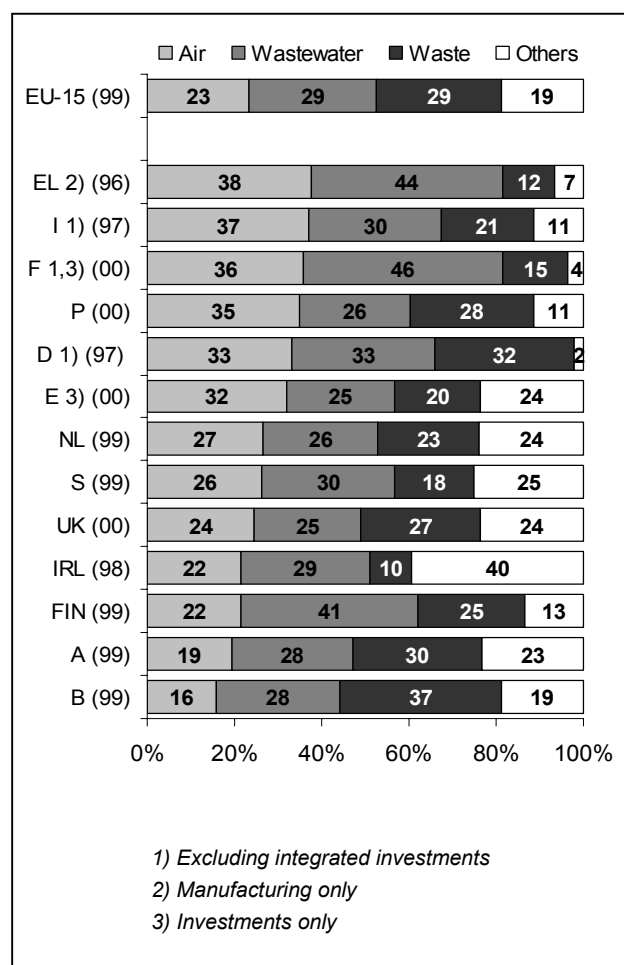


Table 4: Environmental protection expenditure by industry by domain

Country	Year	Environmental protection expenditure				Investments				Current expenditure			
		Air	Waste-water	Waste	Other	Air	Waste-water	Waste	Other	Air	Waste-water	Waste	Other
Belgium	99	16	28	37	19	41	42	14	3	9	25	43	23
Denmark		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Germany 1)	97	33	33	32	2	46	35	14	5	30	33	35	1
Greece 2)	96	38	44	12	7	43	43	8	6	32	45	16	7
Spain	00	:	:	:	:	32	25	20	24	:	:	:	:
France 1)	00	:	:	:	:	36	46	15	4	:	:	:	:
Ireland	98	22	29	10	40	23	35	5	36	19	20	17	45
Italy 1)	97	37	30	21	11	60	20	7	13	11	42	37	10
Luxembourg		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	99	27	26	23	24	47	20	13	20	18	29	27	26
Austria	99	19	28	30	23	28	31	6	35	17	27	36	20
Portugal	00	35	26	28	11	53	27	10	11	12	24	51	13
Finland	99	22	41	25	13	30	49	11	10	18	37	30	15
Sweden	99	26	30	18	25	52	28	9	11	11	32	24	34
United Kingdom	00	24	25	27	24	46	15	13	26	13	29	35	23

1) EP investments exclude integrated investments

2) Including manufacturing only

Environmental protection investment

In 1999, about 9 billion euro or nearly 30 percent of the total expenditure on environmental protection by industry in the EU consisted of investments, according to the latest Eurostat estimate. Industry in Sweden and the UK invests most in environmental protection when measured as a share of total gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), about 5 percent. However, there are in most Member States several specific branches of industry where the "environmental share" is much higher. Environmental protection investments can vary considerably from year to year. It is not unusual for individual enterprises or specific industries to have very large investments one year, e.g. as a result of increased governmental demands or the availability of new standard technology, followed by small amounts over a number of years.

In the United Kingdom and Belgium more than half of the total amounts invested in environmental protection are spent on cleaner technologies and other measures to reduce the generation of pollution at the source. In most Member States the majority of the environmental protection investments aim at taking care of and treating the pollution generated by production activities. It should be stressed that pollution prevention investments are sometimes difficult to measure correctly, which may lead to some underestimation. In addition, pollution prevention may occur as a side-effect from for example replacement of worn-out machinery, where no expenditure specifically linked to environmental protection can be identified.

Figure 5: Environmental protection investment by industry as a share of GFCF

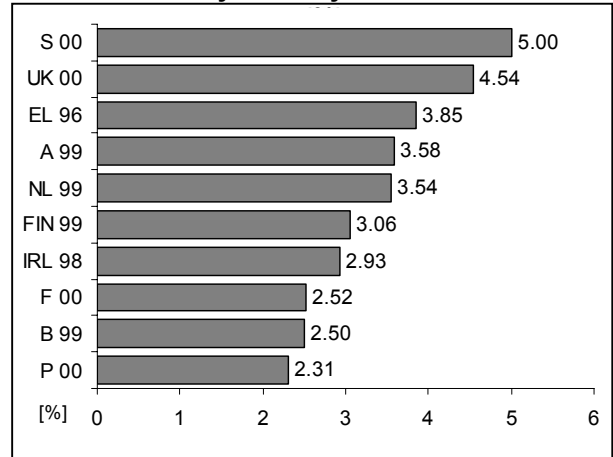


Figure 6: Environmental protection investment by industry by type (%)

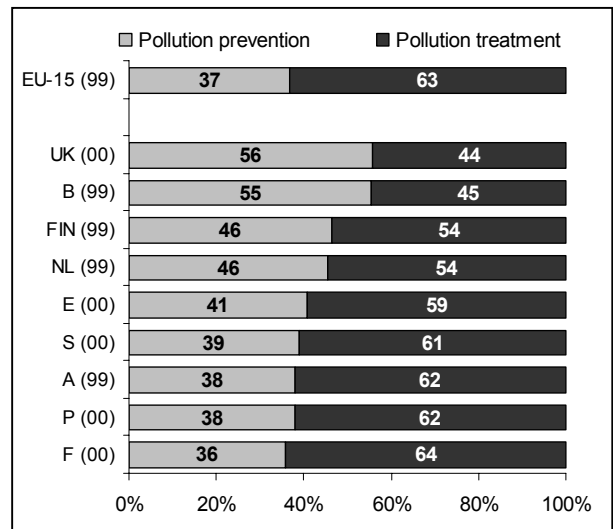


Table 5: Environmental protection investment by industry

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Latest available year			of which pollution prevention (%)
						% of GDP	% of GVA	% of GFCF	
	(million euro)								
Belgium	301	309	315	240	:	0.10	0.50	2.50	55
Denmark 2)	:	:	:	26	:	0.02	0.09	0.44	:
Germany 1)	2 608	1 807	1 620	1 759	1 559	0.08	0.34	1.83	:
Greece	135	:	:	:	:	0.14	0.95	3.85	:
Spain	:	440	538	647	878	0.14	0.74	:	41
France	891	950	950	925	877	0.06	0.34	2.52	36
Ireland	:	:	104	:	:	0.13	0.43	2.93	:
Italy 2,3)	:	747	:	318	:	0.07	0.33	1.53	:
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	:	776	483	477	:	0.13	0.70	3.54	46
Austria	366	438	318	252	:	0.13	0.59	3.58	38
Portugal	154	104	167	168	244	0.21	1.10	2.31	38
Finland	294	238	186	140	:	0.12	0.49	3.06	46
Sweden	:	515	:	323	343	0.14	0.65	5.00	39
United Kingdom	:	1 677	:	1 975	2 332	0.15	0.73	4.54	56

1) Excludes integrated investments

2) Excludes integrated investments. 1999: Source: Structural Business Statistics (SBS).

3) 1997 data for indicators.

GDP = Gross domestic product for the whole economy

GVA = Gross value added for industry

GFCF = Gross fixed capital formation for industry

Current expenditure on environmental protection

In 1999, according to the latest Eurostat estimate, about 24 billion euro or more than 70 percent of the total expenditure on environmental protection by industry in the EU consists of current expenditure. It has increased gradually during the 1990s in most Member States where data are available. This is probably partly an effect of higher operation and maintenance costs of environmental equipment and increased expenditure on, for example environmental management schemes. Industry in Austria and Germany has the highest current expenditure on environmental protection, representing over 0.8 per cent of total industrial output or over 2 percent of industrial GVA. The relatively low current expenditure reported by Italy and Spain is the main explanation for the low total environmental protection expenditure shown earlier in **Figure 2**.

Companies could, in principle, decide whether the environmental protection activities should be performed in-house or if they should buy these services from the market. Increased outsourcing of these would lead to growing markets for environmental consultants and other companies which specialise in the provision of environmental services.

- On average, staff costs and use of raw materials and consumables for activities performed in-house account for about 60 percent of the current expenditure: e.g. linked to operation and maintenance of environmental equipment, measurement and monitoring of pollution levels, environmental management, information and education or environmental R&D.
- Purchases of environmental services from other organisations, public or private account for about 40 percent of the current expenditure. Most fees/purchases are in the environmental domains of waste and wastewater, in particular payments for the collection and treatment of waste and sewage treatment. In the waste domain, as much as two thirds of the total current expenditure is in fact payments to other organisations.

Figure 7: Current expenditure by industry as a share of output (%)

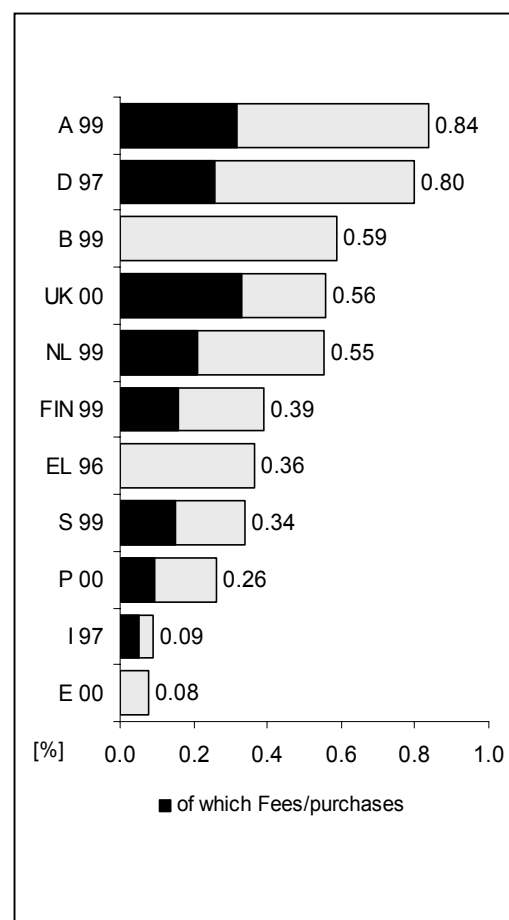


Table 6: Current expenditure on environmental protection by industry

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Latest available year			of which fees/purchases (%)
						% of GDP	% of GVA	% of output	
Belgium	:	:	:	925	:	0.39	1.94	0.59	:
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Germany 1)	:	9275	7354	7367	:	0.50	2.13	0.80	38
Greece	146	:	:	:	:	0.15	1.03	0.36	:
Spain	:	240	286	353	577	0.09	0.49	0.08	:
France	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	62	:	:	0.08	0.26	:	:
Italy	:	645	:	:	:	0.06	0.28	0.09	54
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands 2)	:	617	786	1185	:	0.32	1.74	0.55	38
Austria	864	879	890	890	:	0.45	2.08	0.84	14
Portugal	65	76	95	172	200	0.17	0.90	0.26	37
Finland	283	317	339	350	:	0.29	1.22	0.39	41
Sweden	:	460	:	520	:	0.23	1.07	0.34	44
United Kingdom	:	4497	:	4055	4599	0.30	1.44	0.56	59

1) Excludes energy & water in 1998 and 1999. Latest available year refers to 1997.

2) Excludes fees/purchases in 1997 and 1998

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

DEFINITIONS

Environmental protection expenditure (EPE) is the money spent on all purposeful activities directly aimed at the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution or any other degradation of the environment.

Environmental protection expenditure does not include:

- Activities that, while beneficial to the environment, primarily satisfy technical needs or health and safety requirements.
- Expenditure linked to mobilisation of natural resources (e.g., water supply).
- Calculated cost items such as depreciation (consumption of fixed capital) or the cost of capital.
- Payments of interest, fines and penalties for non-compliance with environmental regulations or compensations to third parties.

Activities such as energy and material saving are only included to the extent that they mainly aim at environmental protection. An important example is recycling which is included only to the extent that it constitutes a substitute for waste management.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOMAINS

Environmental protection expenditure is further defined by the Classification of environmental protection expenditure and activities (CEPA). CEPA is also used to classify expenditure items into different environmental domains according to the environmental media or type of pollution/degradation concerned. The domains presented in this publication include the following activities:

Air

Protection of Ambient Air and Climate.

Wastewater

Emission to water, wastewater management.

Waste

Waste collection, treatment and prevention

Other

Protection of soil and groundwater, Noise, Biodiversity and landscape, Radiation, Research and development, General administration and multifunctional activities

ECONOMIC VARIABLES

Total environmental protection expenditure presented in this publication is the sum of investments and current expenditure.

EP investments

All outlays in a given year (purchases and own-account production) for machinery, equipment and land used for environmental protection purposes. Total investments are the sum of two categories:

i) Pollution treatment investments

Investments that do not affect the production process itself and the amount of pollution generated. Instead they serve to collect and remove, measure the level, treat and dispose of pollution and pollutants

generated by the activities of the company.

ii) Pollution prevention investments

Investments that lead to a modified or adapted production process. They serve to reduce the amount of pollution generated. When a new production process is introduced, the environmental protection expenditure consists of the outlays over and above what would have been paid for cheaper, viable, but less environmentally benign equipment. Where an existing plant is modified, the environmental investment is equal to the total outlays for the environmental adaptation.

Current expenditure on EP

The money spent during the year for the execution of environmental protection activities (excluding investment expenditure). It is the sum of two categories:

i) In-house current expenditure:

Own production of environmental services for own use: wages and salaries, rents, energy, maintenance expenditure and other intermediate inputs used for environmental protection purposes

ii) Fees/Purchases

All purchases of environmental protection services bought in from the market (e.g. a firm has its waste collected by a specialized enterprise), both from public and private producers. These payments are clearly linked with an environmental protection activity done outside the enterprise and exclude e.g. fines and penalties.

SECTORS

This publication covers only expenditure by Industry. The industry sector includes enterprises and other units whose main activity is in the following branches of industries according to NACE Rev. 1:

10-14 MINING AND QUARRYING

15-37 MANUFACTURING

15-16 Food products, beverages and tobacco;

17-19 Textiles and textile products; Leather and leather products

20 Wood and wood products

21-22 Pulp, paper and paper products; publishing and printing

23 Refineries: Coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel

24-25 Chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres; Rubber and plastic products

26 Other non-metallic mineral products

27 Basic metals

28-36 Metal products and other

40-41 ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SUPPLY

INDICATORS

Comparisons have been made with GDP at current prices, Population, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), Gross value

added (GVA) and Output derived from the Eurostat database NewCronos. The ECU/euro exchange rates are averages for the year.

DATA QUALITY

The data presented in this publication is a selection of the data reported by the Statistical Services in the countries through the Joint Eurostat/ OECD Questionnaire 2002. More detailed information is available in the Eurostat database NewCronos.

Environmental protection expenditure statistics are under development and the coverage and quality of the data still vary between countries, limiting data comparability and effective interpretation. The data presented here are those reported by the countries. No estimates have been made to compensate for variations in coverage or possible underestimations. Although this has been minimized through the choice of sectors and variables and through aggregations, there is still some differences in coverage for some countries. For more information see footnotes to tables and graphs and the Eurostat database NewCronos.

Environmental protection expenditure is an indicator of the response from society to reduce environmental pressure and move towards sustainability. However, improvements are also made as part of day-to-day activities, where no specific expenditure to protect the environment can be identified. In addition, high levels of spending could be a result of new, stricter policies in a country where much already has been done to reduce pollution and where the marginal cost is high, or could be a result of long periods of no spending. As a complementary exercise, a further analysis focused on the links to physical data (size of emissions, amounts of waste etc) is recommended.

EU-15 ESTIMATES

An estimate of total spending on environmental protection in the EU-15 1999 has been made based on the data reported in the Joint Questionnaire taking into account other data available at Eurostat, official national publications and applications of Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts in several countries. In this estimate, compensations have been made for clear data gaps in the data reported by the countries, but not for possible inherent underestimation. The results should be seen as a low-end estimate.

Further information:

➤ Databases

New Cronos:Theme 8

Domain: milieu

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