



ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

Annual data for 2013

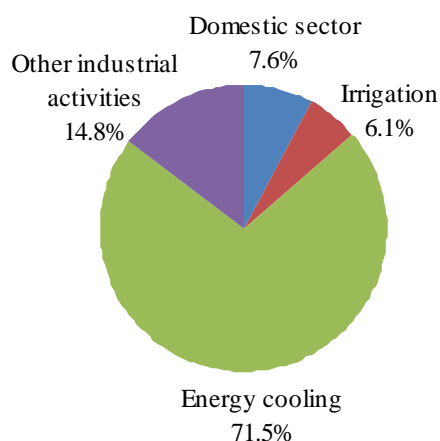
The National Statistical Institute presents to the users results from annual surveys in the domain of environmental statistics for 2013. More detailed data on specific topics can be found in the heading 'Environment' on the NSI web site: <http://www.nsi.bg>

1. Water

The level of water abstraction is determined both by the structure and intensity of the economy, and the climate factors. The total abstracted fresh water for the economy in 2013 is estimated at 5 468 million m³, which is the lowest level since 2000. Water abstraction from surface sources was reduced - in 2013 the abstracted water fell to 4 910 million m³ (95% of volume in 2012), mainly due to declining water used for cooling in energy production. The extraction of water from underground sources remained stable (in 2013 - to 558 million m³) or about 10% of the abstracted fresh water. The water which was input in the system by the public water and sewage (PWS) partnerships remains at a relatively constant level - the annual volume for the period 2009 - 2013 is between 924 million m³ (2013) and 987 million m³ (2009).

Water used decreases both in energy production and other industrial sectors, primarily in manufacturing. In 2013, there was an increase in demand for irrigation water - by about 3% compared to 2012, mainly due to the increase in the area under water consuming crops. Growth of the water used was also registered in the services sector. Despite fluctuations, the structure of water use remains relatively stable - 71% of the total used 4 477 million.m³ of water is for cooling in energy production, about 15% - for other industrial activities, 6% - for irrigation and 7.6 percent - for domestic sector (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Structure of water used by main activities in 2013





Drinking water supplied by PWS to households in 2013 amounted to 261 million m³ which is about 4% less than in 2012. The average per capita consumption decreased (from 102 l/day in 2012 to 99 l/day in 2013) but nevertheless it coincided with the annual average amount for the period 2008 - 2012. Regional data show that in 2013 the largest consumption of water is that of the households from South Bulgaria (an average 105 l/day/per capita), while in Northern Bulgaria it is by 16 l less. Households living in the villages, consumed 94 l/day/per capita, and in the cities - with 7 litres more.

In 2013 from point sources are generated around 448 million m³ of wastewater and 2 947 million m³ of wastewater from cooling processes - total they account for 76% of the water used.

The total volume of wastewater discharged into water bodies in 2013 is estimated at 802 million m³ (excluding cooling water), of which 71% - after treatment in urban and other treatment plants. In 2013 were operating 90 urban wastewater treatment plants (UWWTP), of which 54 with secondary treatment, and 26 - with further after the secondary treatment. Population connected to UWWTP constitutes 56.4% of the population. 18% of the total population is connected to public sewerage but without any treatment plant.

2. Environmental protection expenditure and tangible fixed assets related to the environment

2.1. Expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment

Environmental protection includes all activities which are directly oriented to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution resulting from the production or other processes.

Removal of damages on the environment requires additional funds. The amount of funds is a key indicator of the measures the state and society undertake to reduce the negative impact of socio-economic processes on the environment.

In 2013, 2 058 million BGN were spent on protection and restoration of the environment. There is an increase compared to the previous year and for this reason the share of environmental expenditure as a percent of GDP is considered the more appropriate indicator for the purposes of comparison. In the 2013 it is 2.6% while in 2012 it was 2.2% (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Share of environmental expenditure of GDP



Environmental expenditure includes two components: expenditure on maintenance, and expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets. In 2013, similarly to the previous 2012, current expenditure has a predominant share (65.2%), in the expenditure's structure, while that of investment is smaller (34.8%).

In 2013 the total expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment is allocated by major directions of ecological use in a following way: the greatest was the share of the expenditure on waste disposal and recovery (56.2%), followed by the share of expenditure on wastewater treatment (21.4%), and the expenditure on preserving the air purity (13.3%).

2.2. Tangible fixed assets with ecological use

At the end of 2013 the availability of tangible fixed assets with ecological use amounts to 5 871 million BGN. The available fixed assets with ecological use are allocated by basic directions of ecological use as follows: for wastewater treatment - 39.3%, for air preserving - 27.9% and for waste - 22.8%.

3. Municipal waste

Municipal waste is the waste resulting from the activities of people at home and in administrative, social and public buildings. Included here is also the waste from commercial outlets, crafts, resort and entertainment facilities when being non-hazardous, and at the same time its quantity or composition will not prevent its treatment together with the household waste.



For 2013 a new methodology for calculation of municipal waste was used. Used data are obtained both from the regular statistical survey on municipal waste, and the National information system for waste of the Executive Environmental Agency.

In 2013, the total municipal waste generated was estimated at 3 135 thousand tons. During the same year 1 860 thousand tons of municipal waste were landfilled. Waste directly transmitted for recycling in 2013 is 271 thousand tons. Waste transmitted to facilities for secondary treatment amounted to 1 005 thousand tons. The collected construction waste on municipal landfill sites amounts to 999 thousand tons in 2013. The quantity of municipal waste collected is assessed by means of direct measurement and in case of lack of weighing equipment - on the basis of transport documents.

The regional landfills construction is still in process. At the same time landfills constructed in the past that do not respond to the ecological criteria are closed down. The number of municipal waste systems in 2013 is 144, of which 30 are regional.

The organized waste collection systems' implementation in new settlements in 2013 also led to an increase of the population served by organized waste collection systems (99.5%). The number of settlements served in 2013 was 4 571. At the same time the quantity of collected municipal waste per capita of served population for 2013 is estimated at 434 kilograms.