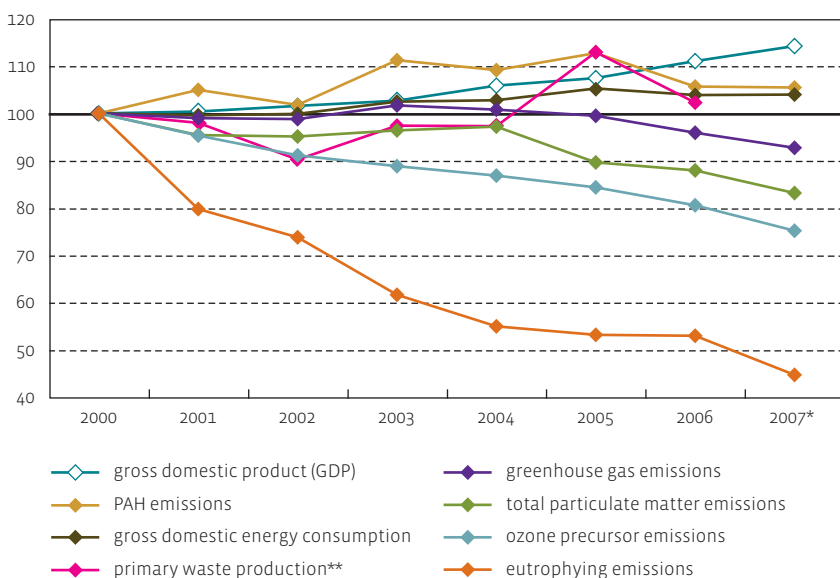


index (2000=100)



* provisional figures, ** primary waste from households and industry

Source: Flanders Energy Balance VITO, NIS, OVAM, VMM

Environmental pressure largely decoupled from economic growth

One of the objectives contained in the Flemish Coalition Agreement and the Flemish Policy Document on the Environment and Nature 2004-2009 is to uncouple the environmental impact and the material and energy consumption from the economic growth in Flanders, i.e. to increase the eco-efficiency of the Flemish economy.

A lot of parameters do indeed appear to have been uncoupled from the gross domestic product (GDP), albeit to a varying extent. The eutrophying emissions for instance dropped considerably between 2000 and 2007. The ozone precursor emissions also dropped continuously. The emission of greenhouse gases stayed stable at first but shows a slight decrease since 2004. The emission of total particulate matter has been decreasing since 2005. The emission of PAHs and the quantity of primary waste from households and industry fluctuates, but in general does seem to have increased slower than the GDP. The gross domestic energy consumption also increased slower than the GDP.

Eco-efficiency does not take environmental pressure abroad into account

Flanders is heavily dependent on imports. The waste and emissions resulting from exploitation abroad and from the production of imported goods are not included in the Flemish environmental statistics and therefore not in the eco-efficiency profiles either. The real eco-efficiency of Flanders can only be determined if that foreign environmental pressure is taken into account as well.

	2000	2005	2006	2007*
PAH emissions (tonnes)	178	201	188	188
gross domestic energy consumption (GDEC) (PJ)	1 551	1 632	1 611	1 612
primary waste production** (million tonnes)	24.2	27.4	24.8	..
greenhouse gas emissions (ktonnes CO ₂ -eq)	86 606	86 157	83 048	80 307
total particulate matter emissions (tonnes)	38 613	34 618	33 954	32 119
ozone precursor emissions (ktonnes TOFP)	434	366	349	326
eutrophying substance emissions (Eeq)	36.0	19.1	19.1	16.1