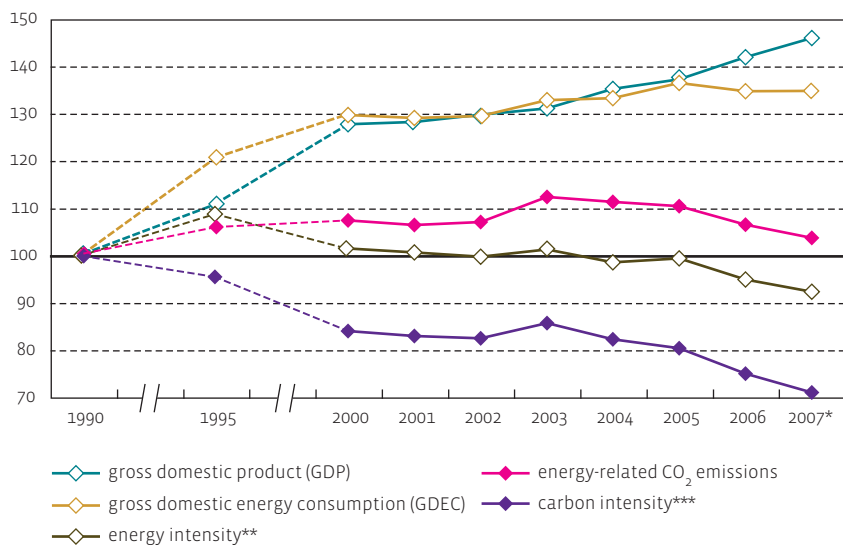


index (1990=100)



\* provisional figures

\*\* energy intensity = amount of Gross Domestic Energy Consumption (GDEC) per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in chain constant prices of 2000

\*\*\* carbon intensity = amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted as a result of energy consumption (incl. process emissions in the chemical industry and emissions as a result of the non-energetic consumption of fuels) per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in chain constant prices of 2000

Source: MIRA based on VITO and VMM

## Downward trend of energy and carbon intensity continues

There has since 2005 been a decoupling in Flanders between the economic growth and the energy consumption. An absolute decoupling between the economic growth and the energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be seen since 2003. This can be attributed to the continuing decreasing trend of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from that same year onwards while the GDP continued to rise.

The energy intensity of the Flemish economy decreased by 7.7 % between 1990 and 2007. The energy intensity decreased almost without interruption after 2000 and now seems structurally likely to stay below the 1990 level. The 'jump' between 1990 and 1995 is mainly the result of the increase in non-energetic energy consumption in industry. A change in the energy intensity can be the result of either a structural effect (shifts in the importance of sectors within the Flemish economy) or changes in the energy efficiency (e.g. a change in energy consumption per unit, product or service).

The carbon intensity dropped by 29 % in the period 1990-2007. Although the slope of the curve to a certain extent is similar to that of the energy intensity, that of the carbon intensity comes out lower due to the switch to lower-carbon fuels. Solid fuels with a high CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor have been replaced mainly by natural gas with a lower CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor and biomass, which is considered to be CO<sub>2</sub> neutral.