

KnS, 5.11.99

The London group conference in Canberra, November 15-19, 1999

Progress report from Norway

General

Abstracts from the work in Statistics Norway in fields related to the environment are collected in our annual publication 'Natural resources and the environment 1999'. This publication is written in English and placed on the web in its entirety (web site:

http://www.ssb.no/english/statistics_by_subject/01environment/nrm1999/

You may also find the 1998 edition on the web.

Emissions to air and water; and solid waste

Statistical work in this field continued. In 1999, an extension and revision of the statistics related to emissions to air of HFKs and PFKs was published. The coefficients of the emission model were revised for several types of emissions, especially related to methane emissions.

Statistics of water discharges to municipal treatment plants were continued. A pilot project has inquired into the possibilities of using the register of the State Pollution Control Authorities to produce statistics by industry. This appears to be possible by matching the data on emissions with the industry codes for the entities that are listed in the business register of Norway. The data quality and coverage appears to be most promising with respect to emissions of heavy metals into water. Also the use of an existing national model for the emissions and retention of nitrogen and phosphorus has been evaluated. Unfortunately the results of the model are geographic with respect to watersheds and therefore problematic for estimating industry detail.

A survey of solid waste in manufacturing industries (1995) was published and a new survey will be conducted for 1999. A national survey of waste from households was conducted for 1998. Building and construction waste will be published in December 1999. The 'waste accounts' were extended to include

additional fractions and are now available for paper, glass, wet organic waste, plastics, and metals. Wood waste accounts will be published in January 2000. These waste accounts are to some extent based on indirect calculation methods using production statistics and estimated product lifetimes as the basis for the calculations. The waste accounts and the industry surveys are able to provide industry sector breakdowns, however, it is difficult to estimate the amounts of waste delivered to the municipal waste collection systems according to industry.

A study has compared the active firms of NACE 90 according to the business register with customers to the Norwegian receiver of special (incl. hazardous) waste (NORSAS). No definite conclusion was drawn from the study. Many of the clients of NORSAS seem to be active in other industries (such as transportation), while many establishments in the register of Business are not listed by NORSAS. There is no subdivision of NACE 90 in the business register, so the study could be a step towards specification of environmental domains.

Energy accounts and -prices

In Norway, the change in industry classifications around 1991 made it difficult to compare the new data to data produced by the old standard. This year, a data bank of energy use data was published in an aggregated form in order to overcome some of the problems of changing classifications.

The subsequent comparison of implicit energy prices, dividing expenditure data from the National Accounts by physical data for energy use from the energy accounts, indicated some inconsistency between the two data sets. Next year, an effort shall be made to improve the co-operation between the teams working with energy accounts and the national accountants. The energy data of the national accounts may be revised in the next revisions of the National Accounts, if necessary. This revision is to be implemented in the year 2001. For manufacturing industry, a major project for improving the energy data in physical terms was introduced in 1999.

Extensions to the Norwegian Environmental accounts, NOREEA

The accounts have been updated and now cover the years 1991-1996. The intention is to use the statistics covering emissions to water and solid waste to enlarge the scope of the NAMEA accounts.

In 1999 we have made preliminary surveys of green taxes and their coverage in the present National Accounts. There was a pilot survey of expenditure for environmental protection of manufacturing industries. Further, we have a preliminary report on some green production activities and the use of some connected/adapted products for environmental protection. These parts of the accounts are to be extended next year.

Resource accounts

We have a project for revising the forestry part of our National Accounts, with emphasis on defining cultivated forests. Results are expected at the turn of the century.

Other analyses

In 1999, the research department of Statistics Norway published several studies of the possible consequences of the Kyoto agreement of greenhouse gas abatement.

Ongoing activities

We now have a project for land use statistics. So far, the focus has been on land use for urban areas.

Statistics Norway is working on a project for modernising the statistical report for local government data (KOSTRA). This will be the future source of economic statistics for waste and wastewater treatment, as well as for management for environmental purposes.

The new COFOG classification for government consumption shall be implemented as a part of the revision of the National Accounts.

A system of environmental reports to the parliament

Autumn 1999 was the first year of this kind of report to the parliament. The intention is to document present policies and the degree of fulfillment of the policy goals. This report is planned to be an annual publication. For this report, Statistics Norway contributed in several ways including a projection of solid waste quantities. Some new green taxes on waste were introduced.