

**Current environmental protection expenditure
by the Belgian industry (1999)**

Bruno Kestemont – Statistics Belgium

Meeting of the
Working Group "Environment and Sustainable Development"
Sub-Group "Environmental Expenditure Statistics"

Joint Eurostat/EFTA group
Meeting of 6 and 7 March 2003
BECH building – Room Ampère



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

STATISTICS BELGIUM

Environment Office

Current environmental protection expenditure by the Belgian industry (1999)

Pilot survey.

December 2001

ESTAT N°200071700002 Convention, Eurostat/DG-env

Bruno Kestemont
Statistician

Word of thanks

The structural business survey unit of Statistics Belgium, its call centre, its informatics and printing offices logistically supported this survey. I would like to thank all the anonymous people of these offices for their essential contributions. Anne Van de Voorde and Robert Delée, who are responsible for the different offices involved, also deserve gratitude, as well as the statisticians Olivier Pieret, Jean-Marie Dawagne, and Guy Vekeman.

However, my warmest thanks go to my fellow workers Marina Sampièri and Rita Braekman, the key figures of this project, who have dedicated months of hard work to obtain the best and most complete information from the companies. Finally, the correspondents of the companies are the ones really responsible for the quality of this statistic. We would like to thank them for their reception and their willingness to answer to the best of their ability, sometimes at the cost of tedious research, and for what they have learned us about the ground truth.

This study has been co-financed by the DG-Environment and Eurostat.

Table of contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Word of thanks | 3 |
| Table of contents | 4 |
| Method..... | 5 |
| Quality of the answers | 7 |
| Processing of non-response. | 12 |
| Default factors..... | 13 |
| Results | 15 |
| Comparison with other surveys..... | 20 |
| Conclusion | 23 |
| Bibliography..... | 24 |
| ANNEXE I: Questionnaire | 25 |
| ANNEXE II: Estimation de l'erreur initiale de réponse | 27 |
| ANNEXE III : Résultats détaillés (1000 EUR) | 36 |

Method

The structural business survey served as the basis for the sub-survey on environmental expenditure. It concerns a stratified sample of +/- 41455 companies from about 700 000 registered companies in Belgium (including self-employed persons). Three environmental questions were only asked to +/- 26596 firms. They concerned environmental taxes, investments destined to abate end of pipe pollution and preventive investments in the form of "integrated technologies". Furthermore, details on investments per environmental domain (air, water + soil, waste, noise) were asked to all (+/- 3373) the large industries and distributors of water and electricity. The whole of the survey was obligatory. The characteristics of this survey are described in detail in NSI-Belgium (2001).

For the data of 1999 a *facultative* supplementary annex asked for the total and the details of *current* environmental expenditures (see annexe 1). This annex was sent to the industries that already received the annex on the details of the investments per environmental domain. Finally, to indicate the facultative character of the pilot survey the corresponding enclosed questionnaire was printed on green paper.

It was sent to all the industries (NACE 1->41) that employ at least 20 persons or have a turnover of at least 200 billion BEF (4,96 billion EUR). About 3373 questionnaires were sent. 3298 (97.8%) of those that were sent back by the companies were retained for the calculations after the verifications and telephone reminders. It was necessary to calculate a weighting coefficient higher than 1 for companies that have certain characteristics to compensate non-responses.

However the annex that interests us was often sent back empty because of its facultative character that was clearly mentioned.

The answers that were received spontaneously for each question are given in figure 1. It shows that the answer rate for the total of the identified companies is 15% and that only 7% of the companies covered have answered to all the questions.

Figure 1: Descriptive statistics (spontaneous answers) (1000 BEF)

| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Answer rate |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|----------------|-------------|
| TOTAL PAC current expenditures | 504 | 15066 | 135470 | 15% |
| CE01 air | 290 | 1374 | 12856 | 09% |
| CE02 water | 328 | 4368 | 43839 | 10% |
| CE03 waste | 379 | 9656 | 102272 | 11% |
| CE04 soil | 278 | 2111 | 29856 | 08% |
| CE05 noise | 266 | 100 | 469 | 08% |
| CE09 other | 287 | 4695 | 47688 | 09% |
| Valid N (listwise) | 225 | | | 07% |

The second phase of the pilot survey consisted in reminders by telephone or, if necessary, by fax to:

- all the companies that had sent back an empty or crossed out questionnaire;
- all the companies that had answered 0;
- all the companies that had given somehow surprising answers (in view of what could be expected of the company class – often it concerned controlling the units used);
- some companies that had answered correctly, to get an idea of the types of expenditure that had been taken into account.

More than 2500 companies have been contacted by telephone. In general, this corresponded with several telephone calls per company. The purpose was to make the questions more clear in order to receive good answers to future surveys, to examine the feasibility of these questions and, finally, to improve the quality and the quantity of the answers.

Figure 2 shows the statistical characteristics at the end of the second phase, as far as they have been used to calculate the results. This way the answer rate amounted to 46% for the total, as 17% of the respondents had given a precise answer for all the environmental domains.

Figure 2: Descriptive statistics (after renewed telephone contact) (1000 BEF)

| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Answer rate |
|--------------------------------|------|------|----------------|-------------|
| TOTAL PAC current expenditures | 1507 | 8551 | 90541 | 46% |
| CE01 air | 709 | 1382 | 19155 | 21% |
| CE02 water | 933 | 3390 | 39074 | 28% |
| CE03 waste | 1393 | 4630 | 56853 | 22% |
| CE04 soil | 713 | 285 | 2050 | 22% |
| CE05 noise | 629 | 131 | 1790 | 19% |
| CE09 other | 886 | 2266 | 28728 | 27% |
| Valid N (listwise) | 576 | | | 17% |

Quality of the answers

Annex II describes a study that was carried out halfway through this survey. According to this study (Kestemont, 2001), by using the two phases survey the answer error can be estimated during the first phase, hence the clearness of the questionnaire. It appears (figure 2 of annex II) that the domains “air”, “soil”, “noise” and “other” are most subject to interpretation by the respondents. Certain companies tend to include the expenditures for energy saving (especially when referring to CO₂) for air and “other”. For the domain noise, the exclusion of expenditures for employee protection may pose a problem. On the other hand, current expenditures for the domains waste water and waste seem to be a generally known concept for the companies. For the domain waste though, a certain number of companies forgot to add their contribution to Fost+ or Val-i-pac (which organise the recycling of waste at the end of the consumption line), and even the location of containers, but in general these amounts are not very large.

The quality of the corrected answers (after telephone surveys) may be suffering from interviewer effect or the dishonesty of respondents. The pollster effect is probably weak as the two main pollsters work in the same office and regularly communicate with the statistician. A difference of concept remains between this survey and the working results of the Task-Force of Eurostat (see Eurostat, 2001). This is logical because these two activities have been carried out simultaneously. Although the experience during the survey could offer directions to the Task Force, the opposite was not the case because of the internal coherence of the survey. Finally, a difference resides in the inclusion in our survey of « environmental taxes » and other taxes. As far as according to SEC95, the largest part of taxes for water and waste are considered as payments and not as taxes, this difference has no important repercussions. However certain non-attributed environmental taxes, such as the federal eco-taxes or fixed municipal taxes could be included in the answers.

A linguistic effect is also possible (because each pollster interviews the correspondents of the same mother tongue in his own language) but this is probably negligible because of the quality of the translation of the written documents and the unity of the professional culture of large companies and federal institutions (bilingualism).

In general, we can say that the quality of the answers is good, because of the unremitting telephone exchange and the possibility to omit answering when in doubt. For obligatory surveys though, it is important to verify the quality of the answers of the most reluctant companies, especially the first years.

The classification of companies in accordance with the NACE code is another type of error. The sample is extracted from the register of companies of Statistics Belgium (DBRIS). It is made up and actualised on the basis of administrative documents (VAT, ONSS l'Office national de Sécurité sociale, ONSSAPL l'Office national de sécurité sociale des administrations provinciales et locales, etc.). 700000 companies are listed. An automatic comparison of the activity codes brings out the divergences, which lead to a routine telephone control. Large surveys also indicate classification errors that are communicated to DBRIS. Finally a “statistical” activity code is given

to each company. This code corresponds with the actual activity of the company. By means of the codes of products and activities the structural business survey and in particular Prodcom make it possible to know the percentage of turnover of each activity branch. If necessary, the companies are reclassified according to their principal actual activity. In practice, the largest companies are ultimately best classified even if their classification (mono-hierarchic) is the most vague because their activities are much more diversified.

Despite this continuous work there remain errors in the classification. Our environmental surveys by telephone sometimes indicate that a company is not misclassified because, for instance, it lacks an industrial activity. About ten companies could be reclassified this way. Sometimes a commercial specialisation of certain companies or subsidiaries is observed. This is the case for numerous printing offices or energy supplying companies. However, these corrections have not been taken into account in our survey for practical reasons. They will improve the samples for future surveys of Statistics Belgium.

Finally, there is one source of errors that is linked with the kind of management of the large companies, especially in a small country like Belgium where the economic and environmental legislation is heavily regionalized. The attribution of the investments and expenditure responds to an accountable, logical, functional or fiscal logic. Therefore, expenditure is not necessarily attributed to the place or the production unit where the actual activity or the corresponding equipment is situated. This traceability of expenditure also poses problems for our correspondents in the companies, whether it concerns an accountant, a person responsible for environmental issues, a production director, a personnel manager, a person responsible for purchase, a person responsible for investments, etc. The larger the company, the more people have to be interviewed and the higher the risk of estimations in the answers to our questions. A permanent, obligatory survey that is conceptually in phase with the administrative questionnaires or the managing habits gives companies the possibility to develop an adequate information system and to reduce the risk of answer errors to our surveys. This would require a harmonisation of concepts not only on a statistical level but also between administrations and legislations of regions and different countries. It is the classic paradox of the information, between comparability and precision (see Kestemont et al, 1996).

Correlations

The following graphs (figure 3) show that there is no relation between the total of the current environmental expenditures of a company and its turnover, its energy expenditure or its environmental investments. It is confirmed when the R^2 is calculated for the whole regression curb. In other words, estimation on the basis of these variables is always heavily biased, as is clearly shown for the relation between the energy expenditures (figure 4)¹. It is thus necessary either to develop more detailed approximation methods, or to compel an important number of companies to calculate the amount of their current environmental expenditure. These considerations are in favour for an obligatory and recurrent survey.

¹ There can be a relation between energy purchases and End Of Pipe investments in industry, but not between energy purchases and integrated investments (see Statistics Belgium, 2001)

Figure 3: Relations between current environmental expenditures, turnover, energy expenditures and e-o-p environmental investments

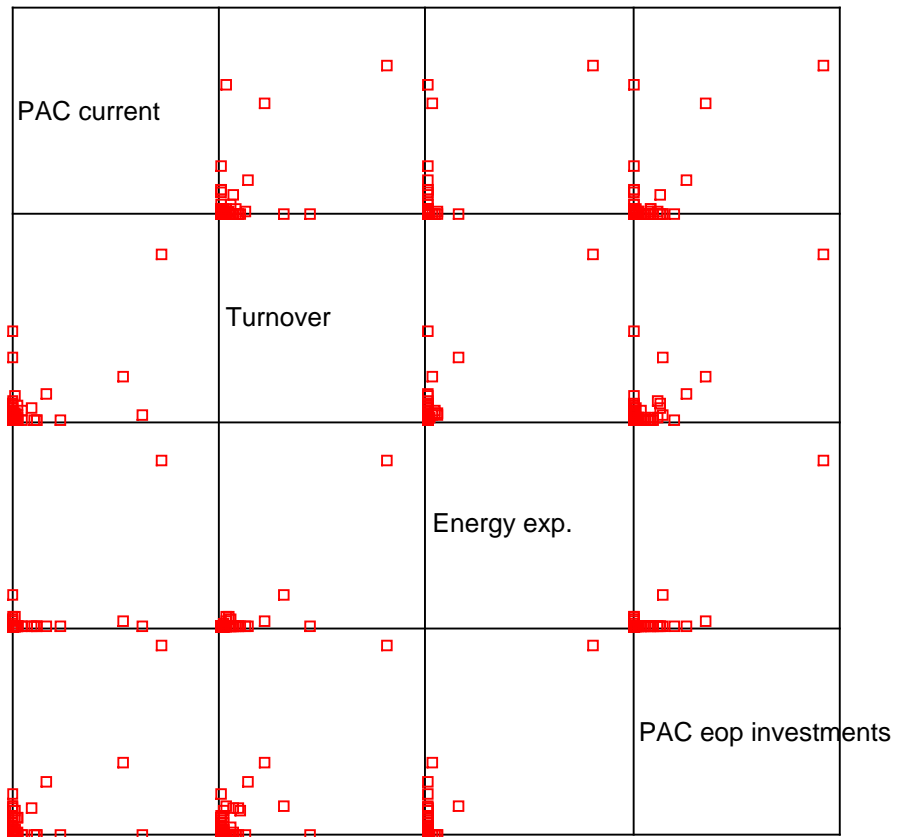
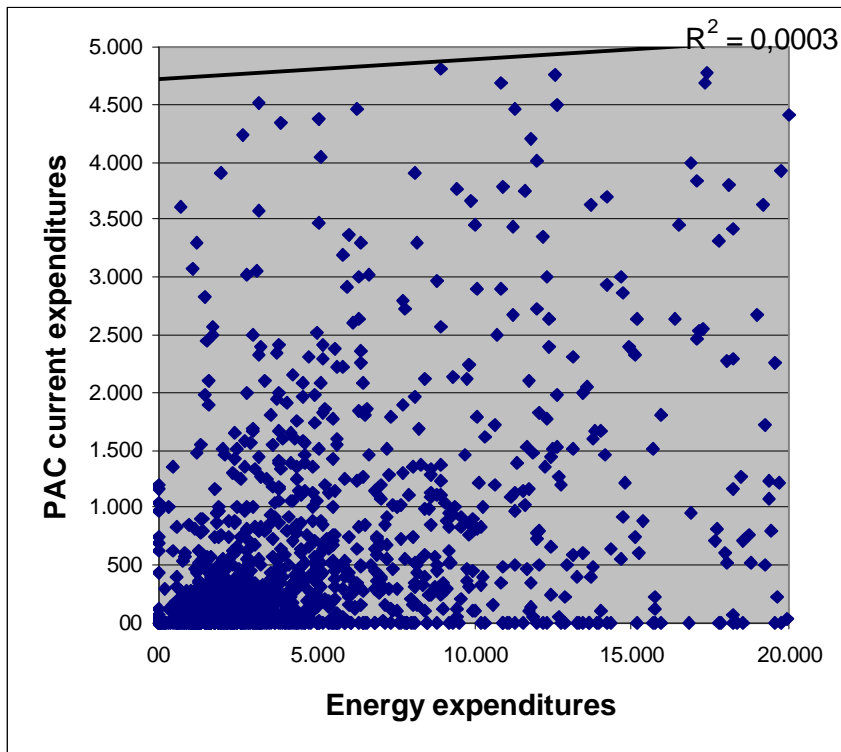


Figure 4: relation between energy expenditures and current environmental expenditures (margin of companies of average importance)(1000 BEF)



Processing of non-response.

In view of these findings, which are confirmed by the inexistence of a curvilinear relation between the variables, the estimation of non-responses becomes problematic, even more so because the non-response rate remains high.

The matrix of correlations between some available obligatory variables (turnover, energy expenditures, PAC end-of-pipe investments, total of taxes, environmental taxes) should not raise false hopes (figure 5). It shows linear correlation coefficients, while we have seen that no linear relation exists. However, for want of anything better, we have used this instrument to select a variable as a starting point to use default factors.

Figure 5 Correlations between a number of variables

| | | 12110 | 20110 | 21110 | 30110 | 30130 |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-------|---------------|
| Current PAC | | Turnover | Energy | PAC eop inv | Taxes | Env. taxes |
| CE01 air | Pearson Correlation | ,519 | ,431 | ,663 | ,316 | ,558 |
| | N | 709 | 709 | 709 | 709 | 709 |
| CE02 water | Pearson Correlation | ,669 | ,648 | ,799 | ,397 | ,770 |
| | N | 933 | 933 | 933 | 933 | 933 |
| CE03 waste | Pearson Correlation | ,253 | ,229 | ,265 | ,128 | ,238 |
| | N | 1393 | 1393 | 1393 | 1393 | 1393 |
| CE04 soil | Pearson Correlation | ,331 | ,112 | ,579 | ,180 | ,629 |
| | N | 713 | 713 | 713 | 713 | 713 |
| CE05 noise | Pearson Correlation | ,346 | ,133 | ,676 | ,758 | ,473 |
| | N | 629 | 629 | 629 | 629 | 629 |
| CE09 other | Pearson Correlation | ,687 | ,820 | ,768 | ,376 | ,849 |
| | N | 886 | 886 | 886 | 886 | 886 |

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01th level (2-tailed) for all cells

The variable on environmental investments (21110) gives a first perception of the best correlation. However, the large quantity of zero values, for a given year, makes it a bad basis for estimations of individual values. In the future, this variable can serve as a basis for more subtle correlation studies. The fact that energy was taken into account in the domain “other” of environment could be the cause of the correlation between “other” current expenditures and energy expenditures or “environmental” taxes, but this is not certain.

Default factors

In each NACE default factors are calculated with 2 digits on the basis of the received answers. They make a very rough estimate possible of current environmental expenditures for companies who did not answer². These are companies where we could not reach the correspondent in charge, or which did not want to answer this year because of the non compulsory character of the question or the difficulty to evaluate these amounts a posteriori (many companies have promised to answer in the years to come).

To be perfectly clear, they are expressed in terms of the value of the current expenditure per million units of the explicative variable in the following table.

The calculation method is a weighted average:

$$F_I = \frac{\sum_i C_i}{\sum_i E_i}$$

with F the default factor for the considered NACE

C_i the current environmental expenditure (for the considered domain) declared by company i

E_i the value that is declared by company i for the explicative variable (turnover 12110).

In each NACE, values that lack current environmental expenditures for companies j because they did not answer, are calculated by the formula:

$$C_j = F_I * E_j$$

² In fact, the present estimation only concerns companies that have answered to the general questionnaire but not to the facultative questions about current expenditures. The correction for non-response to the whole of the questionnaire, which represents only a few percent, is treated in a global way by applying a correcting factor to the weighing of companies with the same characteristics.

Figure 6: Current environmental expenditure per million turnover

| NACE | Air | N1 | Water | N2 | Waste | N3 | Soil | N4 | Noise | N5 | Other | N9 |
|------|------|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|-------|----|-------|-----|
| 14 | 39 | 8 | 813 | 8 | 437 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 461 | 9 |
| 15 | 105 | 98 | 968 | 164 | 1493 | 221 | 219 | 100 | 28 | 86 | 260 | 140 |
| 16 | 367 | 2 | 21 | 2 | 231 | 7 | 59 | 2 | 704 | 2 | 68 | 3 |
| 17 | 40 | 46 | 1494 | 77 | 1686 | 109 | 296 | 46 | 11 | 40 | 335 | 72 |
| 18 | 156 | 12 | 274 | 20 | 1159 | 42 | 20 | 13 | 0 | 11 | 39 | 13 |
| 19 | | | 3999 | 2 | 3526 | 3 | | | | | 643 | 1 |
| 20 | 651 | 28 | 105 | 29 | 5990 | 48 | 67 | 24 | 275 | 24 | 450 | 30 |
| 21 | 604 | 18 | 732 | 25 | 2012 | 42 | 86 | 19 | 90 | 19 | 325 | 25 |
| 22 | 2 | 58 | 1128 | 70 | 8881 | 101 | 33 | 59 | 0 | 56 | 83 | 68 |
| 23 | 16 | 4 | 104 | 4 | 9152 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 43 | 4 |
| 24 | 2017 | 65 | 3308 | 82 | 2663 | 109 | 302 | 60 | 230 | 50 | 2809 | 83 |
| 25 | 100 | 37 | 179 | 43 | 1707 | 74 | 95 | 39 | 38 | 32 | 168 | 46 |
| 26 | 364 | 46 | 6256 | 58 | 1511 | 68 | 207 | 48 | 57 | 38 | 519 | 48 |
| 27 | 349 | 22 | 1056 | 28 | 2427 | 38 | 171 | 20 | 227 | 20 | 302 | 25 |
| 28 | 119 | 82 | 409 | 98 | 1180 | 155 | 78 | 85 | 8 | 78 | 313 | 99 |
| 29 | 68 | 61 | 63 | 70 | 567 | 113 | 49 | 65 | 21 | 60 | 208 | 70 |
| 30 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 4 | 497 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 55 | 4 |
| 31 | 109 | 27 | 56 | 33 | 754 | 42 | 149 | 30 | 37 | 23 | 262 | 29 |
| 32 | 91 | 9 | 358 | 11 | 591 | 19 | 53 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| 33 | 0 | 8 | 457 | 12 | 1335 | 18 | 122 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 237 | 9 |
| 34 | 24 | 12 | 112 | 17 | 870 | 35 | 67 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 219 | 20 |
| 35 | 67 | 8 | 458 | 12 | 1293 | 16 | 94 | 7 | 28 | 7 | 437 | 8 |
| 36 | 2013 | 32 | 891 | 40 | 1062 | 76 | 93 | 28 | 1 | 21 | 258 | 45 |
| 37 | 581 | 8 | 656 | 10 | 10268 | 15 | 159 | 9 | 539 | 8 | 480 | 11 |
| 40 | 418 | 10 | 1516 | 10 | 948 | 12 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 1455 | 12 |
| 41 | 0 | 5 | 104 | 4 | 1735 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 40906 | 4 |

Legend: The factors are expressed in the monetary unit of the environmental expenditure per million of the monetary unit of the explicative variable (the turnover corresponds with variable 12110 of the structural survey).
N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N9 represent the number of companies on the basis of which these factors have been calculated.

Results

The results of the estimations in accordance with the aggregations of the sectors of the Structural Survey (figure 7) show that the current environmental expenditures concern domains varied according to the sectors. They are the highest in the chemical sector and the refining sector, important industries in Belgium. While waste represents more than 98% in the refining sector, the treatment of waste water represents 70% of the current environmental expenditures for the sector of non metallic mineral products (Figure 8). The domains soil and noise protection are negligible while the domain air is less important.

Figure 7: Current expenditures for environmental protection in industries with more than 20 employees or with a turnover of more than 4,96 million EUR. Belgium, estimations (1000 EUR).

| Sector | Total | Air | Water | Waste | Soil | Noise | Other |
|--|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Mining and quarrying (C) | 1424 | 32 | 661 | 355 | 1 | 0 | 375 |
| Food products, beverages (DA) | 115056 | 4777 | 35086 | 54628 | 8077 | 2876 | 9612 |
| Textiles, clothes, footwear (DB+DC) | 45194 | 776 | 16966 | 20810 | 2901 | 108 | 3633 |
| Wood (DD) | 19460 | 1682 | 272 | 15460 | 172 | 711 | 1163 |
| Paper, paperboard, printing (DE) | 89508 | 3616 | 11759 | 70374 | 731 | 542 | 2486 |
| Coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel (DF) | 152025 | 266 | 1692 | 149162 | 209 | 0 | 696 |
| Chemicals, rubber, plastic (DG+DH) | 483074 | 82856 | 136097 | 125419 | 13241 | 9731 | 115730 |
| Non-metallic mineral products (DI) | 80710 | 3276 | 56763 | 13600 | 1862 | 509 | 4700 |
| Basic metals (27) | 81315 | 6265 | 18950 | 43553 | 3062 | 4065 | 5420 |
| Fabricated metal products (28) | 19074 | 1077 | 3695 | 10688 | 709 | 73 | 2832 |
| Machinery and equipment (DK+DL+DM+DN) | 103847 | 12164 | 12776 | 59710 | 4664 | 1383 | 13150 |
| Electricity, gas (40) | 144684 | 13957 | 50571 | 31612 | 0 | 0 | 48544 |
| Water (41) | 66729 | 0 | 162 | 2709 | 0 | 0 | 63858 |

Figure 8: Distribution per domain of current environmental protection expenditures in industries with more than 20 employees or with a turnover of more than 4,96 million EUR. Belgium, estimations (%).

| Sector | Total | Air | Water | Waste | Soil | Noise | Other |
|--|-------|-----|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Mining and quarrying (C) | 100% | 2% | 46% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 26% |
| Food products, beverages (DA) | 100% | 4% | 30% | 47% | 7% | 2% | 8% |
| Textiles, clothes, footwear (DB+DC) | 100% | 2% | 38% | 46% | 6% | 0% | 8% |
| Wood (DD) | 100% | 9% | 1% | 79% | 1% | 4% | 6% |
| Paper, paperboard, printing (DE) | 100% | 4% | 13% | 79% | 1% | 1% | 3% |
| Coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel (DF) | 100% | 0% | 1% | 98% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Chemicals, rubber, plastic (DG+DH) | 100% | 17% | 28% | 26% | 3% | 2% | 24% |
| Non-metallic mineral products (DI) | 100% | 4% | 70% | 17% | 2% | 1% | 6% |
| Basic metals (27) | 100% | 8% | 23% | 54% | 4% | 5% | 7% |
| Fabricated metal products (28) | 100% | 6% | 19% | 56% | 4% | 0% | 15% |
| Machinery and equipment (DK+DL+DM+DN) | 100% | 12% | 12% | 57% | 4% | 1% | 13% |
| Electricity, gas (40) | 100% | 10% | 35% | 22% | 0% | 0% | 34% |
| Water (41) | 100% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 96% |

The specification per NACE-2 digits (figure 9) shows that the current expenditures are on average higher than the investments concerning environmental protection, but that there is no systematic relation between these two types of expenditure. The specification per NACE-3 digits can be found in annex III, but these results are to be considered with caution because of the estimation method of the lacking data.

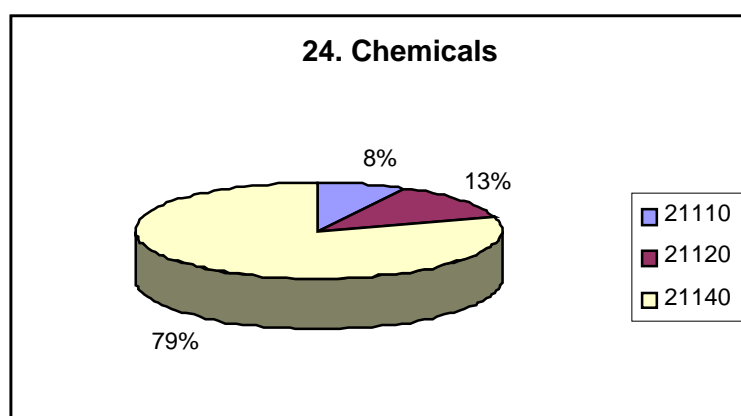
Figure 9: Expenditures for environmental protection and other characteristics of industries with more than 20 employees or with a turnover of more than 4,96 million EUR. Belgium, estimations (1000 EUR).

| NACE | Turnover | Energy | 21110 | 21120 | 21140 | Air | Water | Waste | Soil | Noise | Other |
|------|----------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| 14 | 813022 | 36998 | 0 | 312 | 1424 | 32 | 661 | 355 | 1 | 0 | 375 |
| 15 | 36227929 | 515779 | 27370 | 7266 | 111242 | 3812 | 35030 | 54021 | 7923 | 1024 | 9432 |
| 16 | 2629597 | 5756 | 141 | 311 | 3814 | 965 | 56 | 607 | 154 | 1852 | 180 |
| 17 | 9637297 | 209044 | 6371 | 955 | 37205 | 389 | 14374 | 16256 | 2850 | 108 | 3228 |
| 18 | 2484932 | 9332 | 0 | 0 | 4087 | 387 | 682 | 2869 | 51 | 0 | 98 |
| 19 | 477618 | 4099 | 0 | 211 | | | 1910 | 1685 | | | 307 |
| 20 | 2582615 | 62057 | 1276 | 1009 | 19460 | 1682 | 272 | 15460 | 172 | 711 | 1163 |
| 21 | 5970688 | 202392 | 1880 | 6170 | 22980 | 3603 | 4369 | 12015 | 512 | 540 | 1941 |
| 22 | 6563165 | 52971 | 671 | 3979 | 66528 | 12 | 7390 | 58359 | 219 | 2 | 546 |
| 23 | 16298273 | 573505 | 6800 | 17325 | 152025 | 266 | 1692 | 149162 | 209 | 0 | 696 |
| 24 | 40615577 | 1260463 | 45543 | 72377 | 459659 | 81830 | 134269 | 107933 | 12273 | 9340 | 114014 |
| 25 | 10234370 | 168269 | 7777 | 8187 | 23416 | 1026 | 1829 | 17486 | 968 | 391 | 1716 |
| 26 | 8998092 | 394920 | 8818 | 10077 | 80710 | 3276 | 56763 | 13600 | 1862 | 509 | 4700 |
| 27 | 17944799 | 763565 | 26064 | 38819 | 81315 | 6265 | 18950 | 43553 | 3062 | 4065 | 5420 |
| 28 | 9067670 | 137985 | 4713 | 2814 | 19074 | 1077 | 3695 | 10688 | 709 | 73 | 2832 |
| 29 | 12359751 | 86625 | 1413 | 2348 | 12072 | 835 | 776 | 7014 | 610 | 263 | 2574 |
| 30 | 232020 | 1040 | 7 | 0 | 131 | 0 | 3 | 115 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 31 | 6356785 | 47706 | 6684 | 6797 | 8698 | 690 | 358 | 4802 | 949 | 235 | 1664 |
| 32 | 6359230 | 31302 | 225 | 179 | 6980 | 576 | 2276 | 3767 | 336 | 0 | 25 |
| 33 | 1598966 | 10233 | 0 | 0 | 3398 | 0 | 721 | 2111 | 192 | 0 | 374 |
| 34 | 26448842 | 119411 | 3760 | 18771 | 34409 | 639 | 2970 | 23021 | 1769 | 226 | 5784 |
| 35 | 2496720 | 18082 | 0 | 791 | 5934 | 168 | 1142 | 3227 | 235 | 71 | 1091 |
| 36 | 4287547 | 38393 | 1059 | 1164 | 18515 | 8629 | 3820 | 4555 | 400 | 5 | 1106 |
| 37 | 1080831 | 16221 | 657 | 1071 | 13708 | 628 | 709 | 11098 | 172 | 582 | 519 |
| 40 | 33355406 | 1476422 | 21484 | 87690 | 144684 | 13957 | 50571 | 31612 | 0 | 0 | 48544 |
| 41 | 1561091 | 40594 | 128 | 5231 | 66729 | 0 | 162 | 2709 | 0 | 0 | 63858 |

Figure 10: Expenditures for environmental protection and other characteristics of industries with more than 20 employees or with a turnover of more than 4,96 million EUR. Belgium, estimations (1000 EUR et %).

| NACE | Turnover | 21110 | 21120 | 21140 | Total PAC | 21110% | 21120% | 21140% | PAC/ Turnover |
|------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|------------------|
| 14 | 813022 | 0 | 312 | 1424 | 1736 | 0% | 18% | 82% | 0,2% |
| 15 | 36227929 | 27370 | 7266 | 111242 | 145878 | 19% | 5% | 76% | 0,4% |
| 16 | 2629597 | 141 | 311 | 3814 | 4266 | 3% | 7% | 89% | 0,2% |
| 17 | 9637297 | 6371 | 955 | 37205 | 44531 | 14% | 2% | 84% | 0,5% |
| 18 | 2484932 | 0 | 0 | 4087 | 4087 | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0,2% |
| 19 | 477618 | 0 | 211 | 0 | 211 | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0,0% |
| 20 | 2582615 | 1276 | 1009 | 19460 | 21745 | 6% | 5% | 89% | 0,8% |
| 21 | 5970688 | 1880 | 6170 | 22980 | 31030 | 6% | 20% | 74% | 0,5% |
| 22 | 6563165 | 671 | 3979 | 66528 | 71178 | 1% | 6% | 93% | 1,1% |
| 23 | 16298273 | 6800 | 17325 | 152025 | 176150 | 4% | 10% | 86% | 1,1% |
| 24 | 40615577 | 45543 | 72377 | 459659 | 577579 | 8% | 13% | 80% | 1,4% |
| 25 | 10234370 | 7777 | 8187 | 23416 | 39380 | 20% | 21% | 59% | 0,4% |
| 26 | 8998092 | 8818 | 10077 | 80710 | 99605 | 9% | 10% | 81% | 1,1% |
| 27 | 17944799 | 26064 | 38819 | 81315 | 146198 | 18% | 27% | 56% | 0,8% |
| 28 | 9067670 | 4713 | 2814 | 19074 | 26601 | 18% | 11% | 72% | 0,3% |
| 29 | 12359751 | 1413 | 2348 | 12072 | 15833 | 9% | 15% | 76% | 0,1% |
| 30 | 232020 | 7 | 0 | 131 | 138 | 5% | 0% | 95% | 0,1% |
| 31 | 6356785 | 6684 | 6797 | 8698 | 22179 | 30% | 31% | 39% | 0,3% |
| 32 | 6359230 | 225 | 179 | 6980 | 7384 | 3% | 2% | 95% | 0,1% |
| 33 | 1598966 | 0 | 0 | 3398 | 3398 | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0,2% |
| 34 | 26448842 | 3760 | 18771 | 34409 | 56940 | 7% | 33% | 60% | 0,2% |
| 35 | 2496720 | 0 | 791 | 5934 | 6725 | 0% | 12% | 88% | 0,3% |
| 36 | 4287547 | 1059 | 1164 | 18515 | 20738 | 5% | 6% | 89% | 0,5% |
| 37 | 1080831 | 657 | 1071 | 13708 | 15436 | 4% | 7% | 89% | 1,4% |
| 40 | 33355406 | 21484 | 87690 | 144684 | 253858 | 8% | 35% | 57% | 0,8% |
| 41 | 1561091 | 128 | 5231 | 66729 | 72088 | 0% | 7% | 93% | 4,6% |

Figure 11. Part of the different types of environmental expenditures in a number of sectors



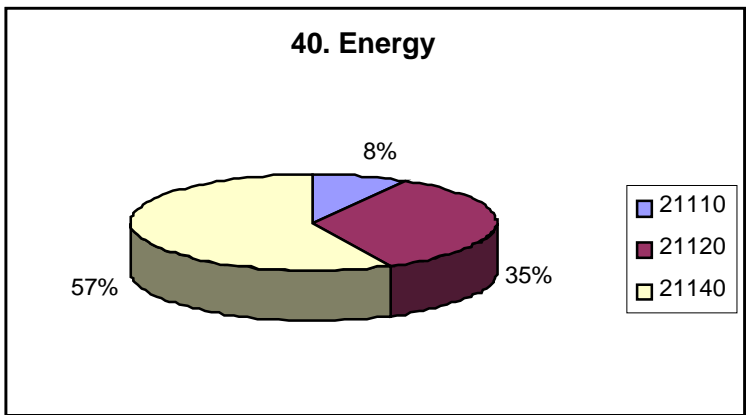
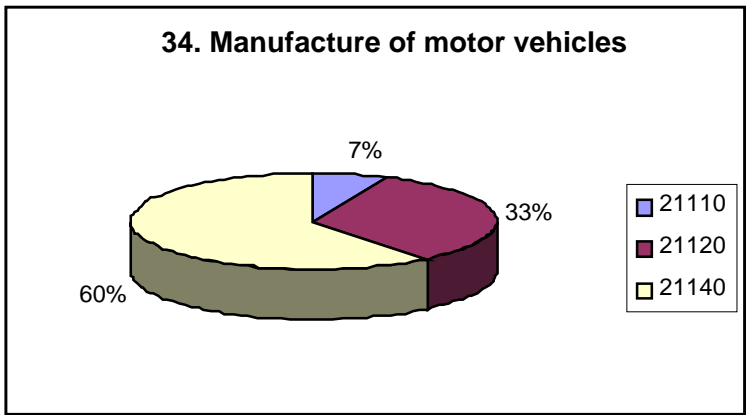
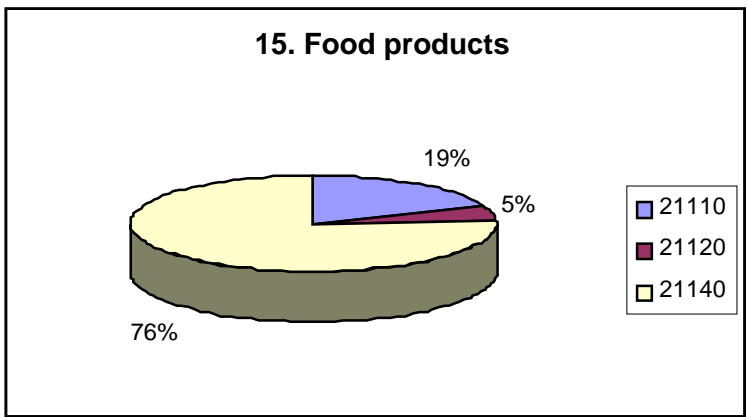
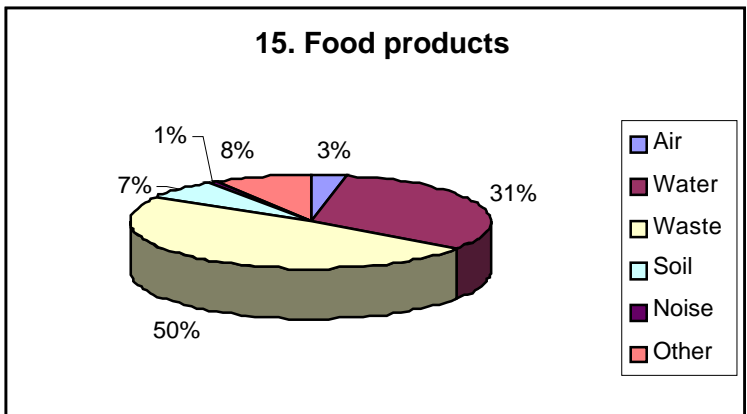
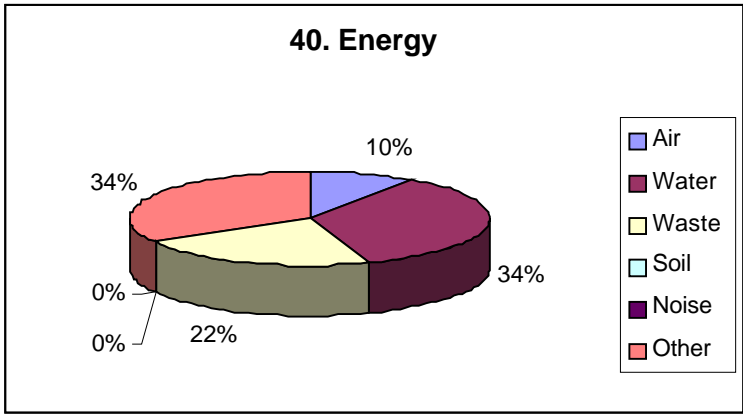
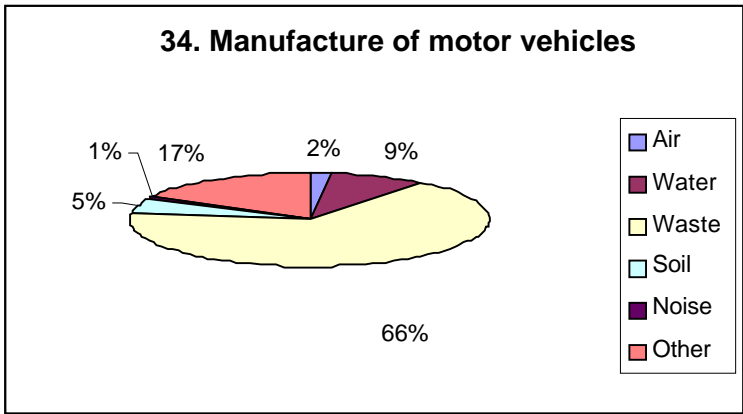
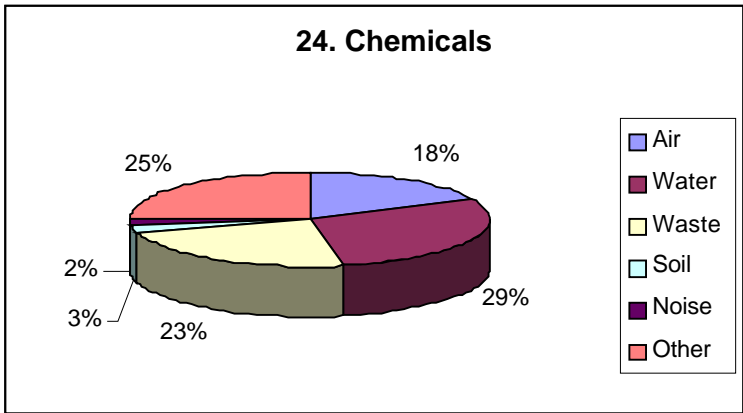


Figure 12: Current environmental expenditures per domain for a number of sectors





Comparison with other surveys.

The distribution between the environmental domains and the results published by the federation of chemical companies (Fedichem, 1997) shows that the data are comparable. The figures of Fedichem seem to indicate that the domain « other » includes, in the answer to our survey also, taxes on the motive power, which is considered in this sector as relevant for the environment.

It is very likely that there is a cultural contagion within companies who are accustomed to surveys about this question. A certain period of time to level the concepts will be necessary to prevent biases between sectors, particularly concerning the perception of what belongs to environment and what does not. Special attention has to be given to everything concerning energy. It could be useful to ask explicitly for the amounts regarding energy economies to try and prevent that they are included into other sections (notably « air » or « other »).

The federation of food companies also holds surveys about environmental expenditures (Fevia, 1999). They made the extrapolations to the whole of the sector on the basis of the 87 companies that had answered the questionnaire and that represented 34% of the turnover of the sector³. These results cover the whole of the sector (without company size threshold) and their presentation does not facilitate the comparison with our numbers. By reconstituting definitions that are comparable to ours and using their figures that are more detailed, we obtain comparable orders of magnitude but the proportions of environmental domains differ (figure 11). The comparison of results suggests that companies include the tax on motive force, which is explicitly part of the environment in the survey of the federation, into our section « other ». This was probably also due to « cultural contagion » between different surveys. FEVIA makes an interesting distinction between the different types of expenditures linked to waste (waste operating costs, packaging operating costs, waste elimination, contribution to organisms of selective collection and recycling, taxes and levies on waste).

³Only middle and large companies have been taken into account in our survey. Our result has to be smaller than that of the survey of Fevia. The number of companies that answered varies between 88 and 228 according to the questions.

Figure 11: Current environmental expenditures of food industries

| Source of the data: | According | According | According | INS | INS |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|------|
| | to FEVIA | to FEVIA | to FEVIA | >20 employees or | |
| Coverage | Whole | Whole | Whole | >5mio EUR | |
| | sector | sector | sector | 1000 EUR | % |
| | 1000 EUR | % without | % without | | |
| | | motive | motive | | |
| | | force | force | | |
| | 1998 | 1998 | 1998 | 1999 | 1999 |
| Operating costs, waste | 10957 | 9% | | | |
| Operating costs, air | 2256 | 2% | | | |
| Operating costs, water | 45761 | 39% | | | |
| Operating costs, packaging | 3223 | 3% | | | |
| Operating costs, other | 2256 | 2% | | | |
| Elimination waste | 13138 | 11% | | | |
| Contributions waste | 23054 | 20% | | | |
| Taxes waste | 2975 | 3% | | | |
| Taxes water | 11899 | 10% | | | |
| Taxes soil | 744 | 1% | | | |
| Taxes water de surface | 1239 | 1% | | | |
| Taxes motive force | 7437 | | | | |
| Taxes other | 496 | 0% | | | |
| Total | 125434 | | 100% | 115056 | |
| Total without "motive force" | 117997 | 100% | | | |
| Air | 2256 | 2% | 2% | 4777 | 4% |
| Water | 58900 | 50% | 47% | 35086 | 30% |
| Waste | 53347 | 45% | 43% | 54628 | 47% |
| Soil | 744 | 1% | 1% | 8077 | 7% |
| Noise | | | | 2876 | 2% |
| Other | 10189 | | 8% | 9612 | 8% |
| Other without « motive force » | 2752 | 2% | | | |

Conclusion

The pilot survey served the purpose of many objectives. The comprehension and the feasibility of the questions on current environmental expenditures could be tested within companies. It has also familiarised companies with the standardised definitions that are more and more used on an international level.

The correlation tests show that the considered variables cannot be deduced from other current statistical variables. Question 21140 on current environmental expenditures should be part of the Structural Business Regulation.

Methodologically, it is necessary to interview a large number of companies because situations vary heavily from one company to another. The facultative character of the survey generates important costs for Statistics Belgium. Even after an important number of telephone contacts, many companies do not answer due to the work that this may cost. Current expenditures are indeed more difficult to evaluate than, for example, investments because the amounts are divided over many little invoices that are difficult to identify. Using a repeated and obligatory survey, would diminish the costs importantly, make results faster available and adapt the information system of the companies structurally. However, considering that we risk receiving an answer of lesser quality from reluctant companies, it is important that the chosen defining system corresponds as good as possible to a « cultural » optimum and that the administrative services also take this as a starting point for their requirements of companies. It is important to have exchanges between statisticians and administrations, particularly on the level of the Commission, before defining information systems.

For future surveys we have to improve our questionnaire to clearly draw attention to the treatment of specific posts such as the domain of energy economies, the tax on motive force etc. For pedagogic reasons, it would probably be good to explicitly list important typical posts that have to be included in or excluded from the answers, by adapting this list or the questionnaires to the economic sectors. Experience shows that some concrete examples added between brackets after the question can improve the quality of the answers, while the more theoretical footnotes have less impact. For waste, for instance, operating costs for waste for the concerned industries can be mentioned and the recuperations of packaging, the elimination of waste, the contribution Fost+ and Val-i-Pac, and the levies. For « other », it should also be explicitly mentioned what is included and what is excluded (such as energy, taxes on motive force, non attributed taxes, ...).

This study was limited to the first results to the methodological questions. Its results can now be analysed more in detail. They can, for instance, be given per size class from the considered threshold on. To obtain an estimation of current environmental expenditures for the whole of the companies, it will undoubtedly be necessary to proceed to a sample of the smaller companies. But such an approach would certainly pose new problems.

Bibliography

-EUROSTAT, 2001, "Definitions and guidelines for measurement and reporting of environmental protection expenditure, revenues and related matters", Task Force on Environmental Protection Expenditure - Industry Data Collection, European Commission, Luxembourg, 37 pp.

-Fedichem, 1997, "Le responsable care dans la pratique", Bruxelles.

-FEVIA, 1999, "Rapport environnemental de l'industrie alimentaire", Bruxelles, 26 pp.

-KESTEMONT, B., 2001, "Factors Affecting Quality of Statistics on Environmental Expenditures by Companies in Belgium", International Conference on Quality in Official Statistics, Norra Latin, Stockholm, May 14-15.

-KESTEMONT, B. and HECQ, W., 1996, "Information technology tools for sustainable development", IATAFI'96 (International Association of Technology Assessment and Forecasting Institutions), 8-10 October 1996, Brussels Congress Centre, 12 pp, <http://www.ulb.ac.be/ceese/PAPERS//IATAFI/iatafi.htm>.

-NSI-Belgium, 2001, "Environmental expenditures of industries in Belgium - Pilot survey", European Commission, ESTAT, Joint meeting of the Sub-GROUP "Environmental Expenditure Statistics" and the Working Party "Economic Accounts for the Environment" Joint Eurostat/EFTA group, doc. ACCT-EXP/01/4.4.1, Luxembourg, 45 pp.

ANNEXE I: Questionnaire

Numéro d'identification INS de l'entreprise :

Nom de la personne à contacter pour ce cadre :

Mme/M Téléphone: Fax:

La réponse aux questions de ce cadre est facultative.

Ce questionnaire pilote vise à améliorer et étendre le cadre IE (investissements liés à la pollution). Il sert à tester la nomenclature européenne CEPA et la question complémentaire sur les dépenses courantes. Vos suggestions sont donc particulièrement bienvenues.

Nous recommandons une concertation entre le service environnement et le service financier de l'entreprise.

Si vous n'êtes pas en mesure de chiffrer exactement vos montants, veuillez les estimer avec le plus de précision possible.

* Veuillez utiliser l'unité monétaire choisie pour le questionnaire détaillé (GD)

| Domaine de pollution | Code CEPA | Valeur (1000 BEF / 1 EUR)* |
|--|-------------|----------------------------------|
| | 1 EPACD | 2 VALCE |
| Total des dépenses courantes consacrées à la protection de l'environnement ^(a) | | |
| dont: | | |
| • Protection de l'air ambiant et du climat ^(b) | CE.01.00.00 | |
| • Gestion des eaux usées ^(c) | CE.02.00.00 | |
| • Gestion des déchets ^(d) | CE.03.00.00 | |
| • Protection des sols et des eaux souterraines ^(e) | CE.04.00.00 | |
| • Réduction du bruit et des vibrations ^(f) | CE.05.00.00 | |
| • Autres ^(g) | CE.09.00.00 | |

Vos remarques:

- (a) Celles-ci comprennent les dépenses internes (salaires et autres), et externes comme les taxes (rubrique 024 dans la partie 8 du questionnaire détaillé) et les autres paiements à des tiers.
- (b) Prévention, traitement ou contrôle de la pollution de l'air, sous forme gazeuse, liquide ou solide (particules).
- (c) Collecte et transport des eaux usées. Prévention, traitement ou contrôle de la pollution de l'eau, y compris le traitement des eaux de refroidissement. Autres mesures tendant à restaurer ou à préserver la qualité et la quantité des eaux de surface.
- (d) Prévention et réduction de la production de déchets; collecte, transport, traitement et élimination des déchets; contrôle des déchets, activités de recyclage si elles visent principalement à la réduction et au traitement des déchets.
- (e) Prévention des infiltrations de polluants, décontamination des sols, contrôles, etc.
- (f) Prévention des bruits et des vibrations à leur source (à l'exclusion de la protection sur les lieux de travail), mesures tendant à isoler les récepteurs des bruits et vibrations, et contrôle des niveaux d'émissions sonores.

ANNEXE II: Estimation de l'erreur initiale de réponse

International Conference on Quality in Official Statistics, Stockholm, May 14-15, 2001.

Factors affecting quality of statistics on environmental expenditures by companies in Belgium.

Bruno Kestemont, Statistics Belgium

Summary

The paper analyses the effect of the different enquiry phases on the quality of statistics for a limited number of pilot economic environmental variables. 3,000 Belgian companies were interviewed on these variables within the framework of the Structural Business Surveys. The status and underlying methods of these surveys varied according to the used parameters and the company types: mandatory or facultative, simplified or detailed, census or sample, variables with high or low occurrence, paper questionnaire with or without a follow up by telephone.

The sampling error is high for environmental investments, mainly due to the sampling method and the low occurrence rate. The response (“measurement”) error is high for new concepts like “current environmental expenditures” or “investments in integrated technologies”. Telephone calls to firms having declared odd values or no values at all for current environmental expenditure resulted in an important rate of corrections of the original paper responses.

Introduction

Sustainable development policy needs a new generation of statistics in the interface between disciplines like economy, sociology and environment.

In this context, data on environmental expenditure are regarded as indicators of environmental commitment. In Europe, governments, industries and households are increasingly prompted to respond directly to the environmental impact they cause, according to the polluter-pay principle. Both at international and national level statistics on the related expenditures are in great demand. This is important for two reasons, namely (UN, 2000):

- (a) To be aware of the *costs* of environmental regulations and the repercussions on competitiveness and economic performances.
- (b) To be aware of the *opportunities* for the environmental protection sector which is widely said to become one of the fastest-growing business sectors in coming years.

However, due to the emergence of new "interdisciplinary" or "horizontal" concepts in statistics the quality of responses has become more important than the sampling quality of the surveys needed. In the case of classical surveys, specialists try to find a common jargon to communicate with specialists in other fields (accountants responding to economical statisticians, or technicians responding to environmental statisticians). In the case of horizontal surveys, accountants are not specialized in environmental concepts nor are those in charge of environmental issues specialized in economical concepts. The respondent will try to answer the question to the best of

his/her ability including an interpretation based on his/her own "culture". If we ask for "environmental expenditure", the respondent must know "what is meant by environment" and "what is meant by expenditure". Ideally, accountants and environmental specialists of companies should consult each other before answering, and carefully read the extensive documentation and footnotes of the questionnaire. But in practice, this is not the most common attitude. We have to determine how to quantify the resulting response error.

Background

Structural Business Surveys make use of a stratified sample of 40,000 units out of 700,000 Belgian enterprises (including self-employed persons). The first survey was held in 1996 using data from 1995. Response is mandatory. There is a simplified questionnaire for small enterprises. The largest companies receive additional questions and annexes depending on the kind of sector they belong to. The following environmental questions are asked to a sample of 25,000 companies: total "end-of-pipe" investments to fight pollution, total investments to prevent pollution (additional costs of cleaner technology), and total environmental taxes. About 3,000 enterprises in the industry sector must also complete a table containing a breakdown of environmental investments in four fields: atmospheric emissions, waste, water protection, and "noise and vibrations".

Method

A pilot survey on *current* environmental expenditures started in 2000 (data 1999). A simple one-page non-mandatory questionnaire, on a green support, was added to the general "business structure" questionnaire sent to the 3000 units mentioned above. This questionnaire only contained the following questions and related explanatory footnotes: "total current expenditure for environmental protection", including "protection of ambient air and climate", "wastewater management", "waste management", "protection of soil and groundwater", "noise and vibration abatement", "others". Each question was defined by a footnote of about 2 lines. The breakdown in environmental domains followed the CEPA classification (based on UN-ECE, 1994) and used definitions similar to those in the usual "environmental investments" annexe of the Business survey. The only new concept was "current expenditures for environmental protection", which was specified in the first footnote as "including internal expenditures (salaries and others), and external expenditures such as environmental taxes and other payments to third parties". This is a large definition. The respondent had the possibility to contact a specific environmental help desk mentioned in the document. He/she could also put down remarks in an additional blank box. No additional information was enclosed.

The second phase of the survey was a telephone interview, not only to enhance the response rate and to accustom companies to this new parameter, but more specifically to estimate the response error of the first phase. All companies that had responded, "zero", or had crossed the questionnaire were interviewed by telephone. Many companies having responded nothing and several companies having sent a detailed answer were contacted as well. After discussion, new answers were collected by fax.

This provisional study is limited to a range of 496 initial responses (zero or positive). The initial non-responses and the crossed questionnaires are not considered here. After a manual check, the 96 most "doubtful" answers were selected and checked by telephone. This was the case for almost all questionnaires with a "zero" response, and for a number of questionnaires where the relative amount appeared to be higher or lower than normal for the related sector. The phone call consisted of open and closed questions, explanations and examples in order to verify and correct the figures given. Further contacts by fax or telephone resulted in a "corrected response". These couples of values (initial response, corrected response) are the basis of the calculations presented here.

Strecker et al. (2000) describe a model of response variability in repeated surveys using the same working system. In the present study, we have 2 responses for the same variable (unknown real value), but we are using different working systems and a rational repeated survey. However, this model can be used to identify the main sources of errors within the context of a pilot survey. The "response variability" between 2 repeated surveys, focused on "doubtful" respondents, is used to rank variables from the most distinct ones to those generating the most errors. It is estimated as follows:

y_{i1} = initial response on paper questionnaire
 y_{i2} = "corrected" response after telephone interview
 $d_i = y_{i2} - y_{i1}$ = deviation of individual responses

d_i is actually the individual cultural or perception difference between the paper survey and the interview process. We make the hypothesis that it is an estimation of the individual response error due to the system of paper survey. The residual response error (as compared to the real value) is neglected here.

$$S_{R_i}^2 = \frac{d_i^2}{2} = \text{estimator of variance of individual responses}$$

$$S_R^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N S_{R_i}^2 = \text{estimator of the variance of responses}$$

$$V_R = \frac{S_R^2}{2N} = \text{estimator of variability of responses (with 2 repeated surveys)}$$

$$Y_1 = \sum_{i=1}^N y_{i1} ; Y_2 = \sum_{i=1}^N y_{i2}$$

$$V_R^{1/2} (\%) = \frac{\frac{S_R}{\sqrt{2N}}}{\frac{Y_1 + Y_2}{2N}} (\%) = \text{estimator of relative variability of responses}$$

The relative variability of responses gives an estimation of the effect of a phone call compared to a simple paper survey. The calculation is based on a stratified sample: all the "doubtful" initial responses, not selected at random but "rationally" selected, form the first stratum. This gives of course a higher contrast in the results (higher variability). The second stratum is a sample of the remaining "credible" answers (rate

22/401). In practice, we had no estimation effect for the latest, because the variability was null (all of the 22 respondents confirmed their initial answer), but the formulas above can easily be adapted to stratified samples and grossing over problems, in the case we would find a variability of responses by the “credible” respondents. The overall result points out the parameters for which the "cultural difference" between the interviewers and the respondents is the highest. The same focus is given within the only stratum of “doubtful respondents”, but with a higher contrast. From the interviewer’s point of view, the parameters with the highest variability of responses are the parameters with higher expected "response error". From the point of view of the respondents, the parameters with the highest variability of responses are the parameters for which questions are clear or not relevant.

Results

The telephone calls resulted in a higher response rate (not studied here) and in the correction of a range of initial responses.

After various explanations and call-backs, 24% of the "doubtful respondents" confirmed their initial response for total expenditure. 8% reduced the total value and 67% updated it with a higher value.

| Parameter | % of doubtful respondents | | | Variability of responses of doubtful respondents |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | confirming paper response | Correcting response: reduced value | Correcting response: bigger value | |
| Total current expenditures for environmental protection | 24% | 8% | 67% | 10% |
| of which | | | | |
| -protection of ambient air and climate | 90% | 3% | 7% | 4% |
| -wastewater management | 67% | 1% | 32% | 3% |
| -waste management | 34% | 2% | 64% | 4% |
| -protection of soil and groundwater | 89% | 1% | 10% | 82% |
| -noise and vibration abatement | 97% | 0% | 3% | 24% |
| -others | 80% | 2% | 18% | 48% |

Table 1: Variability of responses following 2 survey systems for 96 doubtful respondents

* Denominator is initial (paper) value.

The variability of responses of doubtful respondents is calculated between the initial and corrected responses. This variability is higher for the subtotals "protection of soil and groundwater", "others" and "noise and vibration abatement". It rounds 10% in the total expenditure. This may indicate a lower understanding or clarity of those concepts in our questionnaire. Actually, it is a proxy of the cultural misunderstanding between the various people involved in the measurement: the author of the questionnaire and the interviewer on the one hand, and the respondent on the other hand. The best "standard" concepts are those where the overall share of expenditure is the highest (air, wastewater, waste), which is not surprising: these are also the

domains in which companies have most expertise, having to deal with various legislations since several years.

We telephoned a sample (22/401) of the “credible”, respondents. None of them corrected their response. As a first approximation, we then estimated that the variability of responses by the “credible respondents” is 0%.

The calculation of variability on the 496 respondents considered is shown in the table below. This gives a (provisional) estimation of the response error for this part of the survey.

Table 2: Estimation of response error (variability of responses) by 496 respondents

| Parameter | % of respondents | | | Variability of responses | Effect on total result* |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | confirming paper response | Correcting response: reduced value | Correcting response: bigger value | | |
| Total current expenditures for environmental protection | 85,0% | 2,0% | 13,0% | 2,2% | -3,0% |
| of which | | | | | |
| -protection of ambient air and climate | 98,0% | 0,6% | 1,4% | 2,4% | 0,0% |
| -wastewater management | 93,8% | 0,2% | 6,0% | 0,9% | 0,3% |
| -waste management | 87,3% | 0,4% | 12,3% | 0,4% | 2,5% |
| -protection of soil and groundwater | 98,0% | 0,2% | 1,8% | 47,5% | -63,6% |
| -noise and vibration abatement | 99,4% | 0,0% | 0,6% | 5,7% | 12,4% |
| -others | 96,2% | 0,4% | 3,4% | 4,1% | 5,0% |

* Denominator is initial (paper) result

The "rational" phone calls affect the results (hopefully to a better estimate). In the case of the questionnaires considered here, a reduction of 3% of the estimation of total expenditure was achieved. It gives an idea of the error on paper answer, which ranges from -64% to +12% following the variable considered. The impact of a unique erroneous answer to the question "protection of soil and groundwater" was important (the respondent initially included the value of a provision for future soil protection, which actually falls out of the definition). As shown in the tables, when we phoned "doubtful" respondents, they more often reported bigger amounts than smaller ones. Most of the time, an initial underestimation of expenditures was due to the fact that the respondent did not believe to be concerned with environmental protection: "what we do is only to respect external constraints, but our goal is to make profit, not to protect the environment". However, our questionnaire did not make any distinction between mandatory or voluntary environmental expenditure. The effect of interviewers here is that in some cases we perfectly know that "zero" is not probable for several kinds of industries affected by environmental regulations. Another type of easy to identify error appears when the current environmental protection expenditure is higher than a certain percentage of the turn over (in this case, it could be an error of units, or the inclusion of other types of expenditures like security or investments). Other kinds of errors are not so evident to identify in a first year survey.

The results should also be compared to the relative importance of each domain in current environmental expenditures. The provisional results (for 496 enterprises) is shown below (based on corrected responses):

Table 3: Share of current environmental expenditures according to domain

| | |
|---|--------------|
| -Protection of ambient air and climate: | 9 % of total |
| -Wastewater management: | 25 % |
| -Waste management: | 48 % |
| -Protection of soil and groundwater: | 2.4 % |
| -Noise and vibration abatement: | 0.4% |
| -Other: | 15 % |

A comparison of this table with the previous one shows that the parameters where the estimated response error is the highest are also of minor importance on the total. The

cost of getting a good quality response for those parameters is high for a limited impact on the quality of the total. On the other hand, the formulation used to ask about current expenditure for wastewater or waste seems to be good. A simple paper questionnaire, without any intervention of interviewers, gives satisfactory results for the parameters "air", "wastewater" and "waste" at low cost (or at a higher sampling size). The item "Other" should be examined more thoroughly. The items "soils & groundwater" and "noise & vibration" should be removed from the questionnaire and included in "Other".

Discussion

Various survey methods are in competition, characterized by various costs and various expected errors. When designing a survey - at a fixed budget - the question is to minimize the total error. Quantifying the different types of errors (mainly sampling errors and measurement errors) can help to optimise a survey.

For the traditional question on environmental protection investments, the sampling error is high as compared to the response error due to the fact that the variability of environmental investment in a given year is high (NSI-Belgium, 2001). For budgetary reasons, small enterprises are surveyed with a small sample rate, which makes the yearly results sensitive to chance. In the case of "end-of-pipe" investments, expenditure is easy to identify, and answers are generally precise.

Current environmental expenditures occur more often than investments, and the sampling error is lower. From one year or enterprise to another, results vary less but the response error is here higher for the following reasons:

- The question is new for the enterprises.
- An economical definition ("current" expenditure) is crossed with a functional definition ("environmental protection"). The accountant best understands the first one; the environmental technician understands the latter. The latter is moreover in competition with other possible functions.
- The amounts are low, which makes not all related expenditures easily identifiable. An estimate is often necessary (for example to identify the share of employees dealing with environmental protection).

In the case of integrated investments (environmental part in a cleaner technology), both sampling and response (measurement) errors are important (NSI-Belgium 2001).

The variability of responses (even estimated) is a practical tool for pilot surveys. The method of selecting "rationally" the strata (doubtful and credible respondents) is close to the day-to-day work of the statisticians. It is useful to phone to all respondents with suspect responses, not only to allow them to clarify their meaning and correct the response, but also for the interviewers in order to identify special cases or difficulties in their questionnaires. However, a phone call to a sample of supposed "credible" answers is also useful. It allows the calculation of an estimated response error, but also, it could help to identify possible non-expected problems. The coverage of the stratum "doubtful respondents" depends of the ability of the survey system (surveyors + automatic verification tools) to identify them. It has an impact on the precision of

the estimation of the response error, but not on the estimation itself, providing good statistical formulas and sample method within the remaining strata is applied.

Further work consists of deepening the methods of estimating response errors for the all survey, and to extend this exercise to other variables. We intend also to calculate the sampling error for the same variables in order to compare the different types of errors for each type of parameter.

Conclusion

In order to get an optimal quality of results for a given budget, the statisticians must always balance the largest sources of errors: measurement (or response) errors and sampling errors. On the one hand, a small number of heavy questionnaires accompanied with telephone calls, provide better quality responses but also unacceptable sampling errors. On the other hand, simplified questionnaires, sent to a large sample provide low sampling errors but also a lower quality of responses. Even for apparently popular concepts like "environment" or "waste", a period of "popularisation" of their meaning in statistics is necessary to reach a satisfying quality.

In the case of environmental investments, the sampling errors are the most problematic. In the case of current environmental expenditures, the response error can be problematic for marginal domains like soil protection or noise abatement. In the case of integrated investments in cleaner technologies, both types of errors are problematic.

The major sources of response errors can be identified and reduced by using a rational repeated survey and then calculating the variability of responses.

References

H. Strecker et R. Wiegert, 2000, "La variabilité des réponses dans les enquêtes statistiques", Etudes statistiques n°106, INS, Bruxelles, 87 pp.

NSI - Belgium, 2001, "Environmental expenditures of industries in Belgium - Pilot survey", final report - December 1999, ESTAT, Doc.ACCT-EXP/01/4.4.1, Luxembourg, 45 pp.

UN, 2000, "Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting. An Operational Manual", Handbook of National Accounting, Series F N°78, United Nations, New York, 235 pp.

UN-ECE, 1994, "Classification of environmental protection activities", CES/822, Geneva, (quoted by UN, 2000)

Acknowledgments:

The European Commission (DG-ENV/Eurostat) financed this project. I am grateful to R. Braekman and M. Sampieri for their essential contribution, and to J-M Museux for his useful comments.

ANNEXE III : Résultats détaillés (1000 EUR)

Belgium, 1000 EUR, estimates

| NACE | 12110 | 20110 | 21110 | 21120 | 21140 | Air | Water | Waste | Soil | Noise | Other |
|------|----------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| 151 | 5966627 | 82808 | 649 | 1446 | 17227 | 770 | 5857 | 7266 | 1343 | 156 | 1835 |
| 152 | 603613 | 4515 | 0 | 83 | 2214 | 63 | 850 | 987 | 132 | 17 | 165 |
| 153 | 2817192 | 80147 | 6712 | 2625 | 9086 | 272 | 2937 | 3903 | 567 | 99 | 1308 |
| 154 | 3493800 | 23317 | 82 | 266 | 9056 | 365 | 3323 | 4015 | 765 | 98 | 490 |
| 155 | 4477964 | 54005 | 4777 | 487 | 14597 | 559 | 4318 | 6958 | 1182 | 166 | 1414 |
| 156 | 1731314 | 35922 | 2538 | 34 | 4410 | 112 | 2834 | 1053 | 178 | 38 | 195 |
| 157 | 3286952 | 31890 | 638 | 228 | 7290 | 389 | 2406 | 3156 | 584 | 81 | 674 |
| 158 | 9094504 | 136149 | 6968 | 1594 | 27794 | 973 | 8349 | 13452 | 2458 | 218 | 2344 |
| 159 | 4755964 | 67025 | 5006 | 504 | 19569 | 309 | 4156 | 13230 | 715 | 152 | 1007 |
| 160 | 2629597 | 5756 | 141 | 311 | 3814 | 965 | 56 | 607 | 154 | 1852 | 180 |
| 171 | 858212 | 28141 | 18 | 0 | 2857 | 30 | 1115 | 1232 | 222 | 8 | 250 |
| 172 | 2195594 | 62129 | 854 | 72 | 7770 | 126 | 3213 | 2961 | 662 | 25 | 783 |
| 173 | 633320 | 25997 | 3314 | 4 | 4028 | 43 | 1720 | 1516 | 412 | 6 | 331 |
| 174 | 1228612 | 7365 | 942 | 0 | 5033 | 40 | 1744 | 2621 | 352 | 26 | 250 |
| 175 | 4542828 | 82099 | 1243 | 880 | 17151 | 144 | 6428 | 7779 | 1170 | 42 | 1588 |
| 176 | 114938 | 2418 | 0 | 0 | 262 | 4 | 110 | 109 | 23 | 1 | 15 |
| 177 | 63793 | 895 | 0 | 0 | 103 | 1 | 44 | 38 | 9 | 0 | 11 |
| 181 | 19825 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 182 | 2429506 | 8141 | 0 | 0 | 3967 | 382 | 627 | 2818 | 50 | 0 | 90 |
| 183 | 35602 | 1175 | 0 | 0 | 121 | 6 | 55 | 51 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| 191 | 56446 | 893 | 0 | 211 | | | 226 | 184 | | | 36 |
| 192 | 361452 | 2035 | 0 | 0 | | | 1445 | 1275 | | | 232 |
| 193 | 59721 | 1171 | 0 | 0 | | | 239 | 227 | | | 38 |
| 201 | 386879 | 6192 | 82 | 69 | 5093 | 131 | 23 | 4777 | 13 | 55 | 94 |
| 202 | 1367655 | 45324 | 714 | 333 | 9596 | 1115 | 176 | 6950 | 113 | 466 | 776 |
| 203 | 513274 | 7331 | 480 | 507 | 2989 | 268 | 46 | 2350 | 29 | 119 | 177 |
| 204 | 242841 | 2258 | 0 | 11 | 1568 | 142 | 23 | 1230 | 15 | 60 | 98 |
| 205 | 71966 | 952 | 0 | 88 | 215 | 26 | 4 | 153 | 3 | 11 | 18 |
| 211 | 3012412 | 158623 | 267 | 3388 | 9894 | 1546 | 1835 | 5206 | 220 | 232 | 855 |
| 212 | 2958276 | 43768 | 1614 | 2782 | 13086 | 2057 | 2534 | 6809 | 292 | 308 | 1086 |
| 221 | 3464501 | 13090 | 0 | 101 | 18402 | 5 | 2984 | 15027 | 95 | 1 | 290 |
| 222 | 3098664 | 39881 | 671 | 3877 | 48127 | 7 | 4406 | 43333 | 124 | 1 | 256 |
| 231 | 163992 | 5230 | 58 | 478 | 1536 | 3 | 17 | 1482 | 27 | 0 | 7 |
| 232 | 15316862 | 563810 | 6659 | 16508 | 70109 | 250 | 1590 | 67443 | 172 | 0 | 654 |
| 233 | 817420 | 4464 | 83 | 339 | 80380 | 13 | 85 | 80237 | 10 | 0 | 35 |
| 241 | 19202807 | 1015039 | 29962 | 35795 | 267495 | 49717 | 81850 | 51367 | 6914 | 5163 | 72484 |
| 242 | 1610001 | 26819 | 2536 | 606 | 1147 | 157 | 60 | 320 | 23 | 370 | 217 |
| 243 | 2527378 | 16123 | 60 | 709 | 24260 | 4356 | 6316 | 5668 | 623 | 600 | 6697 |
| 244 | 8251816 | 62626 | 10452 | 3087 | 74869 | 12329 | 19063 | 26841 | 2314 | 1346 | 12976 |
| 245 | 2903652 | 28281 | 410 | 30055 | 26964 | 4023 | 7015 | 8304 | 701 | 566 | 6355 |
| 246 | 4619292 | 58351 | 1250 | 1651 | 51725 | 8770 | 15845 | 12938 | 1327 | 1012 | 11833 |
| 247 | 1500630 | 53223 | 873 | 475 | 13198 | 2478 | 4120 | 2494 | 371 | 283 | 3452 |
| 251 | 2023950 | 19605 | 5576 | 146 | 4663 | 190 | 340 | 3564 | 179 | 72 | 318 |
| 252 | 8210419 | 148664 | 2201 | 8041 | 18753 | 836 | 1489 | 13922 | 789 | 318 | 1399 |
| 261 | 3262728 | 136298 | 1614 | 4198 | 21696 | 960 | 14739 | 4113 | 505 | 135 | 1244 |
| 262 | 341801 | 10862 | 64 | 141 | 2376 | 367 | 1097 | 733 | 40 | 12 | 127 |
| 264 | 520863 | 49619 | 0 | 13 | 3429 | 139 | 2304 | 655 | 100 | 22 | 209 |
| 265 | 1716381 | 131473 | 6930 | 3785 | 14307 | 629 | 9826 | 2509 | 355 | 97 | 891 |
| 266 | 2498344 | 45902 | 211 | 1595 | 33760 | 962 | 25507 | 4397 | 735 | 211 | 1948 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| 267 | 305980 | 4922 | 0 | 0 | 2354 | 106 | 1570 | 451 | 71 | 16 | 140 |
| 268 | 351996 | 15843 | 0 | 345 | 2787 | 113 | 1721 | 741 | 56 | 15 | 141 |
| 271 | 8147423 | 512543 | 21587 | 33183 | 36127 | 2711 | 8441 | 19545 | 1325 | 1759 | 2346 |
| 272 | 210158 | 3724 | 3 | 11 | 605 | 41 | 94 | 365 | 17 | 22 | 66 |
| 273 | 2226473 | 62416 | 2864 | 1239 | 11089 | 648 | 2580 | 5941 | 514 | 576 | 830 |
| 274 | 6572787 | 160429 | 1010 | 3169 | 28716 | 2432 | 7079 | 14844 | 1082 | 1387 | 1892 |
| 275 | 787957 | 24453 | 599 | 1217 | 4778 | 433 | 757 | 2858 | 124 | 321 | 285 |
| 281 | 3109074 | 31375 | 3 | 112 | 5730 | 305 | 1036 | 3368 | 209 | 23 | 789 |
| 282 | 1148849 | 14558 | 105 | 790 | 2285 | 110 | 406 | 1293 | 151 | 11 | 314 |
| 283 | 358248 | 3526 | 0 | 0 | 578 | 36 | 105 | 329 | 22 | 2 | 84 |
| 284 | 197005 | 3176 | 0 | 0 | 382 | 22 | 75 | 213 | 14 | 1 | 57 |
| 285 | 2120906 | 52859 | 4380 | 962 | 4977 | 225 | 1170 | 2908 | 151 | 16 | 507 |
| 286 | 456427 | 6151 | 84 | 853 | 693 | 100 | 155 | 286 | 27 | 2 | 123 |
| 287 | 1677160 | 26339 | 141 | 97 | 4429 | 279 | 749 | 2292 | 134 | 17 | 958 |
| 291 | 3064194 | 15267 | 442 | 163 | 2749 | 180 | 171 | 1620 | 127 | 55 | 596 |
| 292 | 2821430 | 20787 | 129 | 605 | 2975 | 168 | 156 | 1678 | 173 | 56 | 744 |
| 293 | 1064500 | 5667 | 0 | 997 | 997 | 70 | 65 | 582 | 51 | 22 | 207 |
| 294 | 474263 | 3491 | 0 | 0 | 289 | 18 | 21 | 175 | 13 | 6 | 56 |
| 295 | 4353823 | 35207 | 318 | 583 | 4280 | 364 | 310 | 2420 | 227 | 83 | 876 |
| 296 | 348518 | 4227 | 523 | 0 | 300 | 16 | 15 | 202 | 12 | 5 | 50 |
| 297 | 233022 | 1980 | 0 | 0 | 481 | 18 | 39 | 336 | 6 | 36 | 46 |
| 300 | 232020 | 1040 | 7 | 0 | 131 | 0 | 3 | 115 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 311 | 866393 | 6299 | 110 | 29 | 1614 | 74 | 60 | 805 | 253 | 30 | 392 |
| 312 | 2422681 | 11931 | 3389 | 750 | 2161 | 128 | 79 | 1371 | 183 | 44 | 356 |
| 313 | 191969 | 1747 | 0 | 0 | 227 | 21 | 12 | 126 | 29 | 7 | 32 |
| 314 | 906153 | 5510 | 715 | 5708 | 1315 | 98 | 51 | 760 | 135 | 34 | 237 |
| 315 | 1213846 | 13058 | 775 | 252 | 1750 | 128 | 77 | 978 | 214 | 44 | 309 |
| 316 | 755744 | 9162 | 1695 | 57 | 1629 | 240 | 78 | 762 | 135 | 77 | 337 |
| 321 | 1217670 | 11959 | 216 | 141 | 1383 | 95 | 465 | 749 | 69 | 0 | 5 |
| 322 | 2162782 | 11272 | 0 | 0 | 2316 | 211 | 746 | 1241 | 110 | 0 | 8 |
| 323 | 2978778 | 8071 | 9 | 38 | 3281 | 270 | 1065 | 1777 | 157 | 0 | 12 |
| 331 | 693233 | 5389 | 0 | 0 | 1497 | 0 | 313 | 917 | 105 | 0 | 162 |
| 332 | 449436 | 2506 | 0 | 0 | 1103 | 0 | 196 | 717 | 50 | 0 | 140 |
| 333 | 287515 | 1059 | 0 | 0 | 349 | 0 | 72 | 221 | 19 | 0 | 37 |
| 334 | 139829 | 931 | 0 | 0 | 425 | 0 | 137 | 241 | 16 | 0 | 31 |
| 335 | 28953 | 349 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 341 | 21570720 | 81454 | 2 | 17175 | 28030 | 516 | 2408 | 18832 | 1434 | 183 | 4657 |
| 342 | 1811377 | 11813 | 65 | 462 | 2468 | 48 | 194 | 1703 | 133 | 14 | 376 |
| 343 | 3066745 | 26143 | 3693 | 1134 | 3912 | 75 | 368 | 2487 | 202 | 29 | 751 |
| 351 | 158752 | 2456 | 0 | 530 | 308 | 27 | 42 | 181 | 10 | 3 | 45 |
| 352 | 400467 | 3669 | 0 | 120 | 920 | 26 | 179 | 496 | 37 | 11 | 171 |
| 353 | 1836495 | 11112 | 0 | 141 | 4531 | 108 | 883 | 2471 | 180 | 54 | 835 |
| 354 | 101006 | 844 | 0 | 0 | 175 | 6 | 38 | 79 | 9 | 3 | 40 |
| 361 | 2930150 | 33732 | 818 | 992 | 13496 | 6665 | 2325 | 3385 | 302 | 4 | 815 |
| 362 | 1021560 | 772 | 0 | 0 | 2889 | 1354 | 592 | 695 | 69 | 1 | 178 |
| 364 | 11618 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 23 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 365 | 126376 | 1669 | 80 | 172 | 1176 | 189 | 749 | 171 | 9 | 0 | 58 |
| 366 | 197843 | 2090 | 161 | 0 | 906 | 398 | 144 | 293 | 19 | 0 | 52 |
| 371 | 617215 | 9863 | 476 | 805 | 10335 | 332 | 465 | 8664 | 101 | 464 | 309 |
| 372 | 463616 | 6357 | 182 | 266 | 3374 | 295 | 244 | 2434 | 72 | 118 | 211 |
| 401 | 29356230 | 1220861 | 21484 | 87690 | 127338 | 12284 | 44508 | 27822 | 0 | 0 | 42724 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|---------|-----|------|-------|------|------|------|---|---|-------|
| 402 | 3999176 | 2555611 | 0 | 0 | 17346 | 1673 | 6063 | 3790 | 0 | 0 | 5820 |
| 410 | 1561091 | 40594 | 128 | 5231 | 66729 | 0 | 162 | 2709 | 0 | 0 | 63858 |