

Use of Energy Balances in Compilation of Energy Accounts and Other Statistics.

We have to be very carefully with the wording. Energy balances can be used in a manifold way, e.g. to developing energy indicators or to analyse the energy flux through the socioeconomic system, but not to compile energy accounts or statistics. They are the classical final product of energy statistics and a very useful and essential tool.

On the other hand we have to handle them with care and to alert the users (mainly from the political society) that they are not an adequate tool for analysing all problems. So I had a intensive debate with the regional government of Vienna several years ago. They thought the regional sales of transport fuels like they are implemented in the sectoral breakdown of the final energy consumption have to reflect the success of traffic calming measures.

If we redraft the title into Use of other statistics in compilation of Energy balances and energy account there many possibilities

Energy statisticians of course could and should play an active role in developing energy accounts and establishing bridge tables between energy balances and energy accounts by taking into account all user needs, especially by planning the designs of energy consumption surveys.

On the other hand energy accounts should use the same data like energy balance do as far as possible. Both compilers of accounts and balances should use additional information from other statistics and administrative data to improve their respective products. So in Austria we use data from the material input survey which is designed for SNA as important data base for the balances and the accounts. To make a better extrapolation from the household energy survey we use additional information on number of installed heating systems by type or the number of households connected to the natural gas grid. As third example we use Emission Trading Scheme data collected by the environment agency to verify and complete our own surveys.

Concerning the proposed structure of the chapter I agree with one small addition. Part B should be renamed into National Accounts and NAMEAs

Concerning the questions on behalf of the LCG I focus on two only in this short discussion:

1. Non energy use of fossil fuels normally is included into energy balances. For biofuels this normally is not the case and there are some good reasons for like cascades of use (firstly one or several stages of material use and energy use at last) or the relatively low share of fuel use compared to the overall quantities. On the other hand this information is of growing importance mainly because of the implementation of programs to increase the share of biofuels. Therefore it is very important to have an idea on the potential available quantities and the (potential) competition of purposes, e.g. grain for food, for feeding or for Bioethanol production.
2. Classification by purpose is an important product of energy production but it is far behind the energy balances. It bases on the final energy consumption of the energy balances and in many cases e.g. for industries additional surveys are necessary. So from my point of view it should be included into IRES, but to what extent has to be discussed by the group.

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