

Terms Used in Material Flows Accounting

Total Material Requirement (TMR): The sum of all inputs required to produce materials in an economy. TMR includes raw materials extracted domestically, imports of raw materials, and the mass of all hidden flows generated in securing those inputs.

Direct Material Input (DMI): Sum of all inputs to the U.S. economy (TMR) less hidden flows.

Direct Material Consumption (DMC): Direct material inputs minus commodity exports.

Net Additions to Stock (NAS): The mass of physical infrastructure added to an economy's stock minus the mass of used materials removed from stock. Items removed from stock include decommissioned buildings and construction materials.

Domestic Processed Output (DPO): The total mass of materials (including imports) that are used in the domestic economy and then flow to the domestic environment. Hidden flows are not included here. DPO includes emissions to air from fuel combustion, material loads in wastewater, household and commercial wastes deposited in landfills, and flows such as fertilizer and road salt that are dispersed on land.

Total Domestic Output (TDO): The sum of all outputs (wastes) released into the domestic environment, including, for this study, hidden flows from extraction and manufacturing.

Hidden Flows: Materials that are moved or mobilized in the domestic and foreign environment but do not enter the dollar economy. Hidden flows occur at every stage of the materials cycle. They include, for example, plant and forest biomass that is harvested from the land along with logs and grain but left behind when the logs and grain are taken for processing and excavated or disturbed materials such as mining overburden and soil erosion from agriculture.