

Physical input-output tables: developments and future

Topic: Multiregional input-output modelling

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Physical input-output tables (PIOT) enjoyed a certain popularity in the 1990's and beginning of the millenium. The empirical work was followed by articles on PIOT modelling and applications. However, despite the potential benefits for environmental economics, there seems to be no large scale push to produce PIOT at National Statistical Institutes or elsewhere. This paper provides an overview of the literature on physical accounts (Physical supply and use tables (PSUT) and Physical input-output tables (PIOT)). A rudimentary PSUT for the Netherlands for the year 2006 is also presented as an illustration. We conclude that momentum has been lost because the literature has generated too few (or visible) applications that justify the large investments which are involved in the production of a PIOT. This paper proposes a number of directions for future research which could help to make the PIOT more relevant and cost-effective.