

Glossary:Gross phosphorus balance

Statistics Explained

The **gross phosphorus balance** is an [agri-environmental indicator](#) (AEI) calculated from the total inputs minus total outputs to the soil. The gross phosphorus balance per ha is derived by dividing the total gross phosphorus balance by the reference area. The reference area is the sum of [arable land](#) (L0001), [permanent grassland](#) (L0002) and [land under permanent crops](#) (L0003). Data on these areas can be found in Eurobase ([apro_cpp_luse](#)).

The **inputs** of the gross phosphorus balance are:

- Fertilisers:
 - inorganic fertilisers;
 - other [organic fertilisers](#) (not including manure).
 - Gross manure input:
 - manure production: animal excretion;
 - manure withdrawals: manure export, manure processed as industrial waste, non-agricultural use of manure, other withdrawals;
 - change in manure stocks;
 - manure import.
 - Other inputs:
 - seeds and planting material;
 - atmospheric phosphorus deposition.

The **outputs** of the gross phosphorus balance are:

- total removal of phosphorus with the harvest of crops (cereals, dried pulses, root crops, industrial crops, vegetables, fruit, ornamental plants, other harvested crops);
- total removal of phosphorus with the harvest and grazing of fodder (fodder from arable land, permanent and temporary pasture consumption);
- crop residuals removed from the field.

Further information

- [Food: from farm to fork statistics 2011](#)
- [Gross Nutrient Balances - ESMS metadata](#) (ESMS metadata file — [aei_pr_gnb_esms](#))

Related concepts

- [Agri-environmental indicator \(AEI\)](#)
- [Gross phosphorus balance](#)