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María José Colinet Carmona



Doctora por la Universidad de Sevilla (US), Master en Economía y Desarrollo (US), Master en Administración de Empresas (U Politécnica Madrid) e Ingeniero Técnico Industrias (US). Coautora de 4 JCR y 3 libros/capítulos. Sus aportaciones se ubican en el ámbito de la eficiencia energética, las energías renovables, el mercado eléctrico y la evaluación de políticas energéticas.

Asistente Honoraria adscrita al Departamento de Análisis Económico y Economía Política (US). 28 años de experiencia en el sector público de la energía. Ha ocupado diferentes cargos de responsabilidad en la Administración de la Junta de Andalucía, entre otros Directora de Planificación e Infraestructuras Energéticas de la Agencia Andaluza de la Energía, participando en la elaboración de diversos programas nacionales y autonómicos de fomento de la eficiencia energética y las energías renovables.

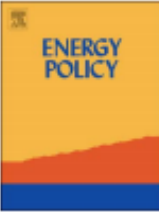
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Is energy efficiency a driver or an inhibitor of energy consumption changes in Spain? Two decomposition approaches[☆]

Rocío Román-Collado^{a,b,*}, María José Colinet^b

^a Universidad Autónoma de Chile, Chile

^b Universidad de Sevilla, Spain



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ABSTRACT

The 2000–2008 expansion period of the economy was accompanied by an important increase of energy consumption. The desire of decoupling has led us to analyse the driving forces behind the energy consumption changes during this expansion period through a structural decomposition analysis (SDA) based on the Spanish input-output tables. Previous decomposition has been supplemented by a Logarithmic Mean Divisia Index (LMDI) analysis of the energy consumption changes during a longer period: 2000–2013. The results show that the energy intensity was the main inhibitor effect of the energy consumption changes of sectors of production, not only during the recession but also during the expansion period. Secondly, the energy intensity was a driver of the energy consumption change of households during the expansion period. However, during the recession period, the energy intensity of private transport contributed to reducing energy consumption, having an inhibitor effect. Therefore, if the activity effect is still the most important driver, the energy intensity effect has become the main inhibitor of energy consumption changes. The energy policy recommendation is to focus on household energy consumption in the future if the Spanish Government aims to attain the EU energy efficiency objectives.