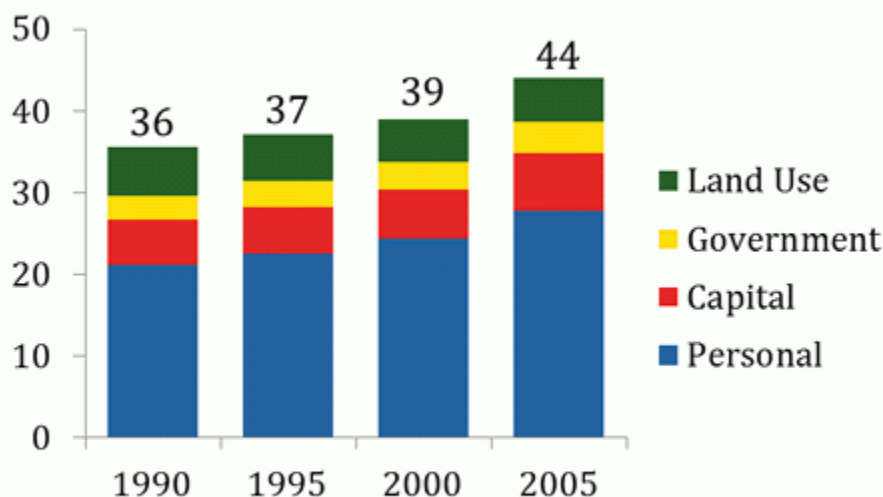


Global Average Footprint 1990-2005, Author's own Calculation, WRI CAIT 8.0.
<http://shrinkthatfootprint.com/what-is-a-carbon-footprint>

The global footprint

To understand the global footprint we bring together the footprints of all countries and add the land use emissions which are so far unaccounted. We will look at the global footprint in five yearly intervals between 1990 and 2005. As before we break it down into personal, capital and government emissions, while now also adding land use emissions. This total amount measures the global carbon footprint of man made greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Carbon Footprint: 1990-2005 (Gt CO₂e)



Note: 'Personal' includes the sum of emissions from the consumption categories housing, travel, food, products and services.

Source: Author's own calculations, WRI CAIT 8.0



As we can see global emissions grew relatively slowly from 1990 to 2000. The large growth between 2000 and 2005, from 39 Gt to 44 Gt was in large part due to economic growth in the developing world, in particular China. With the inclusion of land use in the global footprint the distribution between the sectors is roughly 62% for personal, 15% for capital, 15% for land use, and 8% for government emissions. This breakdown is relatively stable across the periods, although the land use share declines slightly over time, while capital emissions are increasing due to rapid growth in places like China, India and Brazil.

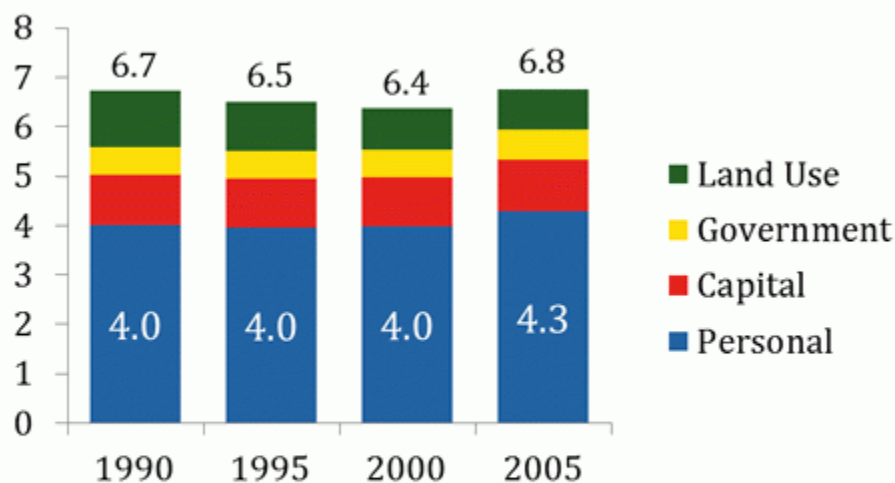
Land use emissions include both the addition and removal of emissions to the atmosphere as a result of human land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF). The statistics we have used come from the [World Resource Institute](http://www.wri.org), and estimate that land use emissions have declined slightly between 1990 to 2005, from around 6 Gt to 5 Gt CO₂e. The estimation of land use emissions is difficult and has large margins of error associated with it. According to the data

more than half of net land use emissions globally in 2005 occurred in Brazil and Indonesia, due largely to deforestation caused by beef and palm oil production respectively.

As with government and capital emissions, individuals have limited control over land use emissions. Despite this challenge they must be included in the total to get a proper perspective of the global footprint. Their inclusion is also a good reminder of just how important land use emissions are, and why we need global action to protect forests from degradation.

Because this is a global footprint we can simply divide the totals we have by global population in each year to estimate the global average footprint.

Global Average Footprint: 1990-2005 (t CO₂e)



Note: 'Personal' includes the sum of emissions from the consumption categories housing, travel, food, products and services. Assumes global populations of 5.3 (1990), 5.7 (1995), 6.1 (2000), 6.5 (2005) billion.

Source: Author's own calculations, WRI CAIT 8.0



Here we see that there was virtually no growth in per capita emissions between 1990 and 2005. Average per capita emissions failed to rise because population growth was roughly similar to emission growth over this period, with population rising from 5.3 to 6.5 billion. Personal emissions were also pretty much level at 4t per capita for the first three periods, before jumping slightly to 4.3t in 2005. This growth is expected to have continued between 2005 and 2010, though it takes a few years to collect the full data.