Appendix A: E3ME model description

Introduction

Overview

E3ME is a computer-based model of the world's economic and energy systems and the environment. It was originally developed through the European Commission's research framework programmes and is now widely used in Europe and beyond for policy assessment, for forecasting and for research purposes.

Recent Applications

Recent applications of E3ME include:

- a global assessment of the economic impact of renewables for IRENA
- contribution to the EU's Impact Assessment of its 2030 climate and energy package
- evaluations of the economic impact of removing fossil fuel subsidies in India and Indonesia
- analysis of future energy systems, environmental tax reform and trade deals in East Asia
- an assessment of the potential for green jobs in Europe
- an economic evaluation for the EU Impact Assessment of the Energy Efficiency Directive

This model description provides a short summary of the E3ME model. For further details, the reader is referred to the full model manual available online from www.e3me.com.

E3ME's basic structure and data

The structure of E3ME is based on the system of national accounts, with further linkages to energy demand and environmental emissions. The labour market is also covered in detail, including both voluntary and involuntary unemployment. In total there are 33 sets of econometrically estimated equations, also including the components of GDP (consumption, investment, international trade), prices, energy demand and materials demand. Each equation set is disaggregated by country and by sector.

E3ME's historical database covers the period 1970-2014 and the model projects forward annually to 2050. The main data sources for European countries are Eurostat and the IEA, supplemented by the OECD's STAN database and other sources where appropriate. For regions outside Europe, additional sources for data include the UN, OECD, World Bank, IMF, ILO and national statistics. Gaps in the data are estimated using customised software algorithms.

The main dimensions of the model

The main dimensions of E3ME are:

- 59 countries – all major world economies, the EU28 and candidate countries plus other countries' economies grouped
- 43 or 69 (Europe) industry sectors, based on standard international classifications
- 28 or 43 (Europe) categories of household expenditure

- 22 different users of 12 different fuel types
- 14 types of air-borne emission (where data are available) including the six greenhouse gases monitored under the Kyoto protocol

The countries and sectors covered by the model are listed at the end of this document.

Standard outputs from the model

As a general model of the economy, based on the full structure of the national accounts, E3ME is capable of producing a broad range of economic indicators. In addition there is range of energy and environment indicators. The following list provides a summary of the most common model outputs:

- GDP and the aggregate components of GDP (household expenditure, investment, government expenditure and international trade)
- sectoral output and GVA, prices, trade and competitiveness effects
- international trade by sector, origin and destination
- consumer prices and expenditures
- sectoral employment, unemployment, sectoral wage rates and labour supply
- energy demand, by sector and by fuel, energy prices
- CO_2 emissions by sector and by fuel
- other air-borne emissions
- material demands

This list is by no means exhaustive and the delivered outputs often depend on the requirements of the specific application. In addition to the sectoral dimension mentioned in the list, all indicators are produced at the national and regional level and annually over the period up to 2050.

E3ME as an E3 model

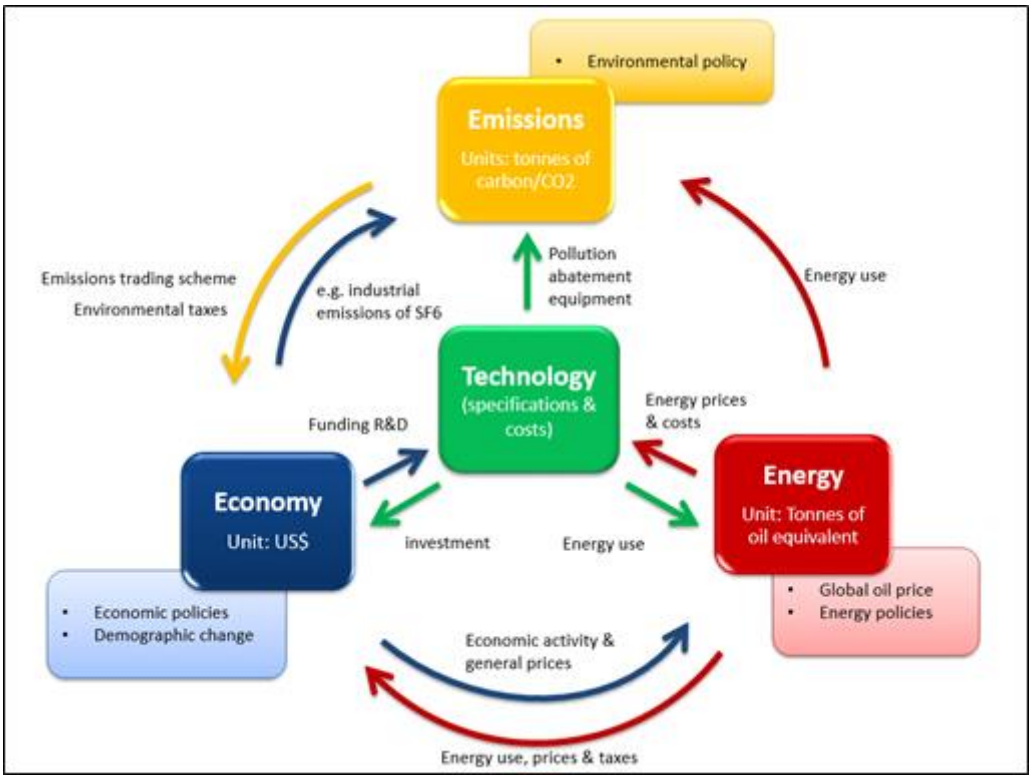
The E3 Interactions

The figure below shows how the three components (modules) of the model - energy, environment and economy - fit together. Each component is shown in its own box. Each data set has been constructed by statistical offices to conform with accounting conventions. Exogenous factors coming from outside the modelling framework are shown on the outside edge of the chart as inputs into each component. For each region's economy the exogenous factors are economic policies (including tax rates, growth in government expenditures, interest rates and exchange rates). For the energy system, the outside factors are the world oil prices and energy policy (including regulation of the energy industries). For the environment component, exogenous factors include policies such as reduction in SO_2 emissions by means of end-of-pipe filters from large combustion plants. The linkages between the components of the model are shown explicitly by the arrows that indicate which values are transmitted between components.

The economy module provides measures of economic activity and general price levels to the energy module; the energy module provides measures of emissions of the main air pollutants to the environment module, which in turn can give measures of damage to health and buildings. The energy module provides detailed price levels for energy carriers distinguished in the economy module and the overall price of energy as well as energy use in the economy.

The Role of Technology

Technological progress plays an important role in the E3ME model, affecting all three Es: economy, energy and environment. The model's endogenous technical progress indicators (TPIs), a function of R&D and gross investment, appear in nine of E3ME's econometric equation sets including trade, the labour market and prices. Investment and R&D in new technologies also appears in the E3ME's energy and material demand equations to capture energy/resource savings technologies as well as pollution abatement equipment. In addition, E3ME also captures low carbon technologies in the power sector through the FTT power sector model[1].



Treatment of international trade

An important part of the modelling concerns international trade. E3ME solves for detailed bilateral trade between regions (similar to a two-tier Armington model). Trade is modelled in three stages:

- econometric estimation of regions' sectoral import demand
- econometric estimation of regions' bilateral imports from each partner
- forming exports from other regions' import demands
- Trade volumes are determined by a combination of economic activity indicators, relative prices and technology.

The labour market

Treatment of the labour market is an area that distinguishes E3ME from other macroeconomic models. E3ME includes econometric equation sets for employment, average working hours,

[1] See Mercure (2012).

wage rates and participation rates. The first three of these are disaggregated by economic sector while participation rates are disaggregated by gender and five-year age band.

The labour force is determined by multiplying labour market participation rates by population. Unemployment (including both voluntary and involuntary unemployment) is determined by taking the difference between the labour force and employment. This is typically a key variable of interest for policy makers.

Comparison with CGE models and econometric specification

E3ME is often compared to Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models. In many ways the modelling approaches are similar; they are used to answer similar questions and use similar inputs and outputs. However, underlying this there are important theoretical differences between the modelling approaches.

In a typical CGE framework, optimal behaviour is assumed, output is determined by supply-side constraints and prices adjust fully so that all the available capacity is used. In E3ME the determination of output comes from a post-Keynesian framework and it is possible to have spare capacity. The model is more demand-driven and it is not assumed that prices always adjust to market clearing levels.

The differences have important practical implications, as they mean that in E3ME regulation and other policy may lead to increases in output if they are able to draw upon spare economic capacity. This is described in more detail in the model manual.

The econometric specification of E3ME gives the model a strong empirical grounding. E3ME uses a system of error correction, allowing short-term dynamic (or transition) outcomes, moving towards a long-term trend. The dynamic specification is important when considering short and medium-term analysis (e.g. up to 2020) and rebound effects[2], which are included as standard in the model's results.

Key strengths of E3ME

In summary the key strengths of E3ME are:

- the close integration of the economy, energy systems and the environment, with two-way linkages between each component
- the detailed sectoral disaggregation in the model's classifications, allowing for the analysis of similarly detailed scenarios
- its global coverage, while still allowing for analysis at the national level for large economies
- the econometric approach, which provides a strong empirical basis for the model and means it is not reliant on some of the restrictive assumptions common to CGE models
- the econometric specification of the model, making it suitable for short and medium-term assessment, as well as longer-term trends

Applications of E3ME

[2] Where an initial increase in efficiency reduces demand, but this is negated in the long run as greater efficiency lowers the relative cost and increases consumption. See Barker et al (2009).

Scenario-based analysis

Although E3ME can be used for forecasting, the model is more commonly used for evaluating the impacts of an input shock through a scenario-based analysis. The shock may be either a change in policy, a change in economic assumptions or another change to a model variable. The analysis can be either forward looking (ex-ante) or evaluating previous developments in an ex-post manner. Scenarios may be used either to assess policy, or to assess sensitivities to key inputs (e.g. international energy prices).

For ex-ante analysis a baseline forecast up to 2050 is required; E3ME is usually calibrated to match a set of projections that are published by the European Commission and the IEA but alternative projections may be used. The scenarios represent alternative versions of the future based on a different set of inputs. By comparing the outcomes to the baseline (usually in percentage terms), the effects of the change in inputs can be determined.

It is possible to set up a scenario in which any of the model's inputs or variables are changed. In the case of exogenous inputs, such as population or energy prices, this is straightforward. However, it is also possible to add shocks to other model variables. For example, investment is endogenously determined by E3ME, but additional exogenous investment (e.g. through an increase in public investment expenditure) can also be modelled as part of a scenario input.

Price or tax scenarios

Model-based scenario analyses often focus on changes in price because this is easy to quantify and represent in the model structure. Examples include:

- changes in tax rates including direct, indirect, border, energy and environment taxes
- changes in international energy prices
- emission trading schemes

Regulatory impacts

All of the price changes above can be represented in E3ME's framework reasonably well, given the level of disaggregation available. However, it is also possible to assess the effects of regulation, albeit with an assumption about effectiveness and cost. For example, an increase in vehicle fuel-efficiency standards could be assessed in the model with an assumption about how efficient vehicles become, and the cost of these measures. This would be entered into the model as a higher price for cars and a reduction in fuel consumption (all other things being equal). E3ME could then be used to determine:

- secondary effects, for example on fuel suppliers
- rebound effects[3]
- overall macroeconomic impacts

Table 1: Main dimensions of the E3ME model

	Regions	Industries (Europe)	Industries (non-Europe)
1	Belgium	Crops, animals, etc	Agriculture etc
2	Denmark	Forestry & logging	Coal

[3] In the example, the higher fuel efficiency effectively reduces the cost of motoring. In the long-run this is likely to lead to an increase in demand, meaning some of the initial savings are lost. Barker et al (2009) demonstrate that this can be as high as 50% of the original reduction.

3	Germany	Fishing	Oil & Gas etc
4	Greece	Coal	Other Mining
5	Spain	Oil and Gas	Food, Drink & Tobacco
6	France	Other mining	Textiles, Clothing & Leather
7	Ireland	Food, drink & tobacco	Wood & Paper
8	Italy	Textiles & leather	Printing & Publishing
9	Luxembourg	Wood & wood prods	Manufactured Fuels
10	Netherlands	Paper & paper prods	Pharmaceuticals
11	Austria	Printing & reproduction	Other chemicals
12	Portugal	Coke & ref petroleum	Rubber & Plastics
13	Finland	Other chemicals	Non-Metallic Minerals
14	Sweden	Pharmaceuticals	Basic Metals
15	UK	Rubber & plastic products	Metal Goods
16	Czech Rep.	Non-metallic mineral prods	Mechanical Engineering
17	Estonia	Basic metals	Electronics
18	Cyprus	Fabricated metal prods	Electrical Engineering
19	Latvia	Computers etc	Motor Vehicles
20	Lithuania	Electrical equipment	Other Transport Equipment
21	Hungary	Other machinery/equipment	Other Manufacturing
22	Malta	Motor vehicles	Electricity
23	Poland	Other transport equip	Gas Supply
24	Slovenia	Furniture; other manufacture	Water Supply
25	Slovakia	Machinery repair/installation	Construction
26	Bulgaria	Electricity	Distribution
27	Romania	Gas, steam & air cond.	Retailing
28	Norway	Water, treatment & supply	Hotels & Catering
29	Switzerland	Sewerage & waste	Land Transport etc
30	Iceland	Construction	Water Transport
31	Croatia	Wholesale & retail MV	Air Transport
32	Turkey	Wholesale excl MV	Communications
33	Macedonia	Retail excl MV	Banking & Finance
34	USA	Land transport, pipelines	Insurance
35	Japan	Water transport	Computing Services
36	Canada	Air transport	Professional Services
37	Australia	Warehousing	Other Business Services
38	New Zealand	Postal & courier activities	Public Administration
39	Russian Fed.	Accommodation & food serv	Education

40	Rest of Annex I	Publishing activities	Health & Social Work
41	China	Motion pic, video, television	Miscellaneous Services
42	India	Telecommunications	Unallocated
43	Mexico	Computer programming etc.	
44	Brazil	Financial services	
45	Argentina	Insurance	
46	Colombia	Aux to financial services	
47	Rest Latin Am.	Real estate	
48	Korea	Imputed rents	
49	Taiwan	Legal, account, consult	
50	Indonesia	Architectural & engineering	
51	Rest of ASEAN	R&D	
52	Rest of OPEC	Advertising	
53	Rest of world	Other professional	
54	Ukraine	Rental & leasing	
55	Saudi Arabia	Employment activities	
56	Nigeria	Travel agency	
57	South Africa	Security & investigation, etc	
58	Rest of Africa	Public admin & defence	
59	Africa OPEC	Education	
60		Human health activities	
61		Residential care	
62		Creative, arts, recreational	
63		Sports activities	
64		Membership orgs	
65		Repair comp. & pers. goods	
66		Other personal serv.	
67		Hholds as employers	
68		Extraterritorial orgs	
69		Unallocated/Dwellings	

Source(s): Cambridge Econometrics.