

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Closing the loop

MOVING TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING EFFORTS

IRELAND

- 2 926 kg of total waste were generated per capita in Ireland in 2012, compared to the EU average of 4 982 kg per capita.
- 42 % of municipal waste was disposed of in landfills in 2013, which is above the EU average (31 %).
- 34 % of the municipal waste was recycled in 2013, 6 % was composted, 18 % incinerated and 42 % landfilled.

REDUCING WASTE

Municipal waste

Ireland has stepped up its efforts to reduce waste in recent years, however the country's municipal waste generated per capita remains above the EU average.

An estimated 586 kg of **municipal waste** were generated per capita in Ireland in 2013, which is above the EU average of 481 kg per capita.

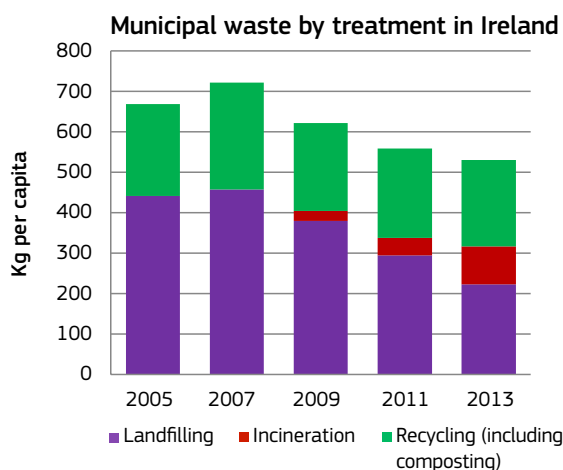
Source: [Municipal Waste Statistics - Eurostat](#)

Total waste

The **total waste from all economic activities and households** in Ireland amounted to 13.4 million tonnes of waste in 2012, including 1.4 million of hazardous waste. In the same year the EU generated a total of 2.5 billion tonnes of waste, of which 100 million tonnes were hazardous waste.

The **total waste** per capita in Ireland reached 2 926 kg in 2012, which is below the average of 4 982 kg per capita recorded in the EU.

Sources: [Waste Statistics - Eurostat](#) [Waste Generation Statistics - Eurostat](#)



RECYCLING EFFORTS

Municipal waste

Ireland has increased the amount of municipal waste it recycles, which now exceeds the EU average.

The EU recycled 131 kg of municipal waste per capita in 2013, while in Ireland about 180 kg of municipal waste was recycled per capita. In Ireland, 34 % of the municipal waste was recycled, while 6 % was composted, 18 % incinerated and 42 % landfilled.

Ireland achieved a 40 % **municipal waste recycling rate** in 2013 (including composting), which is slightly below the EU average of 43 %.

Sources: [Municipal Waste - Eurostat News](#)

[Statistics on Municipal Waste by treatment - Eurostat](#)

[Municipal Waste landfilled, incinerated, recycled and composted in the EU - Eurostat](#)

Total waste

A total of 827 thousand tonnes of waste were recycled in Ireland in 2012, while almost 840 million tonnes of waste were recycled across all EU Member States. Ireland recycled 6 % of its total waste, whereas the EU recycled on average 33 % of its total waste in 2012.

Source: [Waste Statistics - Eurostat](#)

SPECIFIC WASTE STREAMS

Packaging waste

Ireland made significant progress in increasing the amount of total packaging waste it recycles, which includes paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, wood, metals and other packaging materials.

Ireland achieved a 74 % **packaging waste** (paper and cardboard, glass, plastics, wood and metals) **recycling rate** in 2012, which is above the EU rate of 65 %. In 2012, it recycled on average 85.5 % of its collected glass waste and 83 % of its paper waste, while achieving an estimated 40.4 % plastic waste recycling rate.

Sources: [Waste Statistics - Eurostat](#) [Packaging Waste Statistics - Eurostat](#) [Recycling rates for packaging waste - Eurostat](#)

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

Larger quantities of waste electrical and electronic equipment are also being recycled in Ireland.

Ireland collected a total of 41 177 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in 2012. About 9 kg of WEEE were collected per person in 2012, which is above the EU average of about 7 kg per capita.

Ireland **recycled or reused** 17 942 tonnes of discarded large household appliances and 5 641 tonnes of IT and telecommunications equipment in 2012.

Sources: [Electrical and electronic equipment waste statistics - Eurostat](#)

[Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Statistics \(WEEE\) - Eurostat](#)

LANDFILL USE OF MUNICIPAL WASTE AND TOTAL WASTE (EXCLUDING MAJOR MINERAL WASTE)

Municipal waste

Although Ireland has improved its waste treatment, a large part of the country's municipal waste is still being disposed of in landfills. Ireland disposed of 42 % of its **municipal waste in landfills** in 2013, which is above the EU average (31 %).

Source: [Municipal Waste - Eurostat News Release](#)

Total waste (excluding major mineral waste)

Some 1.6 million tonnes of waste generated from all economic activities (excluding major mineral waste), as well as from households, were landfilled in Ireland in 2012. This corresponds to 338 kg of waste per capita ending up in landfills.

Source: [Statistics on waste excluding major mineral wastes - Eurostat](#)

DOMESTIC MATERIAL CONSUMPTION

Domestic material consumption (DMC) measures the total amount of materials consumed in a country by businesses and households. These materials fall under four main categories: biomass, metal ores, non-metallic minerals and fossil energy materials. Ireland achieved a **DMC rate** of 26 tonnes per capita, which is above an estimated rate of 13.3 tonnes per capita recorded across all EU Member States in 2014.

Source: [Material flow accounts and resource productivity - Eurostat](#)

RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY

Resource productivity measures the total amount of DMC in relation to a country's gross domestic product (GDP). The EU's resource productivity increased by 27.8 % between 2002 and 2014. Though resource productivity rose steadily between 2002 and 2008, during the second half of the 2002-2014 period two sharp increases (in 2008-2010 and in 2011-2014) were recorded due to the economic crisis.

The resource productivity (calculated by dividing GDP in Purchase Power Standard over DMC) amounted to 2.07 PPS/kg across the 28 EU Member States in 2014. In Ireland, **resource productivity** amounted to 1.4 PPS/kg, which is below the EU average.

Source: [Statistics on resource productivity - Eurostat](#)