

Municipal waste

Half a ton of municipal waste generated per person in the EU27 in 2007

Almost 40% of this waste was recycled or composted

In the **EU27**, 522 kg of municipal waste¹ was generated per person in 2007. Municipal waste can be treated in several ways: landfilling, incineration, recycling or composting². In the **EU27** in 2007, 42% of treated municipal waste was landfilled, 20% incinerated, 22% recycled and 17% composted.

This information³ is published by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**.

Municipal waste generated per person varied from 294 kg in the Czech Republic to 801 kg in Denmark

The amount of municipal waste¹ generated varies significantly across Member States. More than 750 kg per person was generated in 2007 in **Denmark, Ireland and Cyprus**. **Luxembourg, Malta** and the **Netherlands** had values between 600 and 750 kg per person and **Austria, Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, Estonia, Sweden and Finland** between 500 and 600 kg. The next group of Member States included **Belgium, Portugal, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Slovenia** and **Lithuania** with values between 400 and 500 kg of municipal waste per person. The lowest values of below 400 kg per person were found in **Romania, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia** and the **Czech Republic**.

Highest share of municipal waste recycled in Germany, Belgium and Sweden

The treatment methods differ substantially between Member States. In 2007, the Member States with the highest share of municipal waste landfilled were **Bulgaria** (100% of waste treated), **Romania** (99%), **Lithuania** (96%), **Malta** (93%) and **Poland** (90%).

The highest shares of incinerated municipal waste were observed in **Denmark** (53%), **Luxembourg** and **Sweden** (both 47%), the **Netherlands** (38%), **France** (36%), **Germany** (35%) and **Belgium** (34%). Eleven Member States had no incineration at all.

The Member States with the highest recycling rates for municipal waste were **Germany** (46%), **Belgium** (39%), **Sweden** (37%), **Estonia** and **Ireland** (both 34%).

Composting of municipal waste was most common in **Austria** (38%), **Italy** (33%), **Luxembourg** and the **Netherlands** (both 28%), and not done at all in **Bulgaria, Cyprus** and **Romania**.

Composting and recycling accounted for over 50% of municipal waste treated in **Germany** (64%), **Belgium** (62%), the **Netherlands** (60%) and **Austria** (59%).

Municipal waste, 2007

	Municipal waste generated, kg per person	Municipal waste treated, %:			
		Landfilled	Incinerated	Recycled	Composted
EU27	522	42	20	22	17
Belgium	492	4	34	39	23
Bulgaria	468	100	0	0	0
Czech Republic	294	84	13	2	1
Denmark	801	5	53	24	17
Germany	564	1	35	46	18
Estonia	536	64	0	34	2
Ireland	786	64	0	34	2
Greece	448	84	0	14	2
Spain	588	60	10	13	17
France	541	34	36	16	14
Italy	550	46	11	11	33
Cyprus	754	87	0	13	0
Latvia	377	86	0	13	1
Lithuania	400	96	0	2	2
Luxembourg	694	25	47	0	28
Hungary	456	77	9	13	1
Malta	652	93	0	2	5
Netherlands	630	3	38	32	28
Austria	597	13	28	21	38
Poland	322	90	0	6	4
Portugal	472	63	19	8	10
Romania	379	99	0	1	0
Slovenia	441	66	0	34*	-
Slovakia	309	82	11	2	5
Finland	507	53	12	26	10
Sweden	518	4	47	37	12
United Kingdom	572	57	9	22	12

Some of the data are estimated

* Recycling data for Slovenia include composting

1. Municipal waste consists to a large extent of waste generated by households; the figures reflect differences in consumption behaviour. Municipal waste also includes similar wastes generated by small businesses and offices and collected by the municipality; this part of municipal waste may vary from municipality to municipality and from country to country, depending on the local waste management system.
The amount of municipal waste generated consists of waste collected by or on behalf of municipal authorities and disposed of through the waste management system. For areas not covered by a municipal waste collection scheme the amount of waste generated is estimated. Wastes from agriculture and industry are not included.
2. **Landfill** is defined as the depositing of waste into or onto land, including specially engineered landfill and temporary storage of over one year.
Incineration means thermal treatment of waste in an incineration plant.
Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. Composting is presented as a separate category.
Composting is the treatment of biodegradable matter.
Data on treated municipal waste only refer to waste treated within the Member State, and does not take into account waste exported for treatment.
3. For further information, please visit the web site of Eurostat, under the theme Environment and Energy/ [Environmental Data Centre on Waste](#). It should be noted that data on recycling and composting are published for the first time.

Issued by:
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Louise CORSELLI-NORDBLAD
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

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For further information on data:

Christian HEIDORN
Tel: +352-4301-35 271
christian.heidorn@ec.europa.eu

Wilhelmus KLOEK
Tel: +352-4301-34 963
wilhelmus.kloek@ec.europa.eu