

Environment in the EU27

## **40% of municipal waste recycled or composted in 2008**

Half a tonne of waste generated per person

In the **EU27**, 524 kg of municipal waste<sup>1</sup> was generated per person in 2008. 40% of this municipal waste was landfilled<sup>2</sup>, 20% incinerated, 23% recycled and 17% composted. The average amount of waste generated in the **EU27** was virtually unchanged from 2007 (525 kg per person).

This information<sup>3</sup> is published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

### **Municipal waste generated per person varied from 306 kg in the Czech Republic to 802 kg in Denmark**

The amount of municipal waste<sup>1</sup> generated varies significantly across Member States. This variation is mainly due to different consumption behaviour, and to a lesser extent to the inclusion, by certain Member States, of waste generated not only by households but also by small businesses and public institutions.

More than 700 kg of municipal waste per person was generated in 2008 in **Denmark, Ireland, Cyprus** and **Luxembourg**. **Malta**, the **Netherlands** and **Austria** had values between 600 and 700 kg per person and **Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Italy, Finland, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** between 500 and 600 kg per person. The next group of Member States included **Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Hungary, Portugal** and **Slovenia** with values between 400 and 500 kg per person. The lowest values of below 400 kg per person were found in the **Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland, Romania** and **Slovakia**.

### **Between 60% and 70% of municipal waste recycled or composted in Austria, Germany and the Netherlands**

The treatment methods differ substantially between Member States. In 2008, the Member States with the highest share of municipal waste landfilled were **Bulgaria** (100% of waste treated), **Romania** (99%), **Malta** (97%), **Lithuania** (96%), and **Latvia** (93%).

The highest shares of incinerated municipal waste were observed in **Denmark** (54% of waste treated), **Sweden** (49%), the **Netherlands** (39%), **Belgium** and **Luxembourg** (both 36%), **Germany** (35%) and **France** (32%). In ten Member States, incineration was equal to or below 1%.

Recycling and composting of municipal waste was most common in **Austria** (70% of waste treated), **Germany** (65%), the **Netherlands** (60%) and **Belgium** (59%). In seven Member States less than 10% of waste was recycled or composted.

The importance of these two treatment categories varies considerably between Member States. The Member States with the highest recycling rates for municipal waste were **Germany** (48% of waste treated), **Belgium** and **Sweden** (both 35%), **Ireland** and the **Netherlands** (both 32%) and **Slovenia** (31%). Composting of municipal waste was most common in **Austria** (40%), **Italy** (34%), the **Netherlands** (27%), **Belgium** (25%), **Spain** and **Luxembourg** (both 20%).

## Municipal waste, 2008

	Municipal waste generated, kg per person	Municipal waste treated, %			
		Landfilled	Incinerated	Recycled	Composted
<b>EU27</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	493	5	36	35	25
<b>Bulgaria</b>	467	100	0	0	0
<b>Czech Republic</b>	306	83	13	2	2
<b>Denmark</b>	802	4	54	24	18
<b>Germany</b>	581	1	35	48	17
<b>Estonia</b>	515	75	0	18	8
<b>Ireland</b>	733	62	3	32	3
<b>Greece</b>	453	77	0	21	2
<b>Spain</b>	575	57	9	14	20
<b>France</b>	543	36	32	18	15
<b>Italy</b>	561	44	11	11	34
<b>Cyprus</b>	770	87	0	13	0
<b>Latvia</b>	331	93	0	6	1
<b>Lithuania</b>	407	96	0	3	1
<b>Luxembourg</b>	701	19	36	25	20
<b>Hungary</b>	453	74	9	15	2
<b>Malta</b>	696	97	0	3	0
<b>Netherlands</b>	622	1	39	32	27
<b>Austria</b>	601	3	27	29	40
<b>Poland</b>	320	87	1	9	4
<b>Portugal</b>	477	65	19	9	8
<b>Romania</b>	382	99	0	1	0
<b>Slovenia</b>	459	66	1	31	2
<b>Slovakia</b>	328	83	10	3	5
<b>Finland</b>	522	50	17	25	8
<b>Sweden</b>	515	3	49	35	13
<b>United Kingdom</b>	565	55	10	23	12

Data for the EU27, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania, Portugal and the United Kingdom are estimated.

- Municipal waste consists to a large extent of waste generated by households, but may also include similar wastes generated by small businesses and public institutions 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.  
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.
- 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 the treatment of biodegradable matter.  
In principle, data on treated municipal waste only refer to waste treated within the Member State, and does not take into account waste exported for treatment. However, recycling capacities may be limited in small countries. Luxembourg is a case where recycled amounts include exports.
- For further information, please visit the web site of Eurostat, under Statistics / Environment / [Environmental Data Centre on Waste](#).

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