

## Non-mineral waste

# Around 1 800 kg of non-mineral waste generated per capita in the EU27 in 2008

## Three quarters from production activities

In 2008, the total non-mineral waste<sup>1</sup> generated in the **EU27** amounted to 920 million tonnes, which corresponds to 1 800 kg per capita. The manufacturing sector accounted for 26% of total generation of non-mineral waste, other economic activities<sup>2</sup>, such as agriculture, energy and services, for 50%, while households contributed 23%. Non-mineral waste reflects waste originating from all economic sectors and households, thus including waste generated from both production and consumption. It does not cover mineral waste, of which 90% originates from the mining and construction sectors. Non-mineral waste is an interesting indicator for environmental policies since it covers most of the waste for which reduction is an important environmental objective.

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

### Lowest values of non-mineral waste generated per capita in Malta and Cyprus, highest in Estonia and Finland

Among the Member States, the **United Kingdom** (143 million tonnes of waste or 16% of total waste in the **EU27**) generated the most non-mineral waste in 2008, followed by **Germany** (129 mn tonnes or 14%), **France** (95 mn tonnes or 10%), **Italy** (94 mn tonnes or 10%) and **Spain** (71 mn tonnes or 8%). These Member States together accounted for almost 60% of total non-mineral waste generated in the **EU27**.

The pattern is different when measured per capita. The Member States with the lowest values per capita were **Malta** (970 kg of non-mineral waste generated per capita), **Cyprus** (1 040 kg) and the **Czech Republic** (1 190 kg), while the highest values were recorded in **Estonia** (8 220 kg), **Finland** (4 350 kg), **Austria** (2 750 kg) and **Sweden** (2 540 kg). The high level of waste generated in **Estonia** is due to the large amounts of waste from the energy and refinery sector, derived from the use of oil shale, while in **Finland**, **Austria** and **Sweden** it is mainly due to wood waste.

### A quarter of total non-mineral waste generated by households

Non-mineral waste is generated from all sectors of the economy as well as from households. The shares of non-mineral waste generated by the different sectors varied considerably between Member States. The highest shares from the manufacturing sector were observed in **Finland** (61% of total non-mineral waste generated), **Austria** (52%) and **Sweden** (48%).

The highest shares observed for other sectors such as agriculture, energy and services can be partly explained by combustion waste from coal used as an energy source in **Bulgaria** (70% of total non-mineral waste generated from other sectors) and **Greece** (68%), by waste from agriculture in **Romania** (65%) and by wholesale of waste and scrap in the **United Kingdom** (65%).

The largest shares for households were observed in **Cyprus** (48%), **Latvia** (44%) and **Malta** (42%).

## Total non-mineral waste generation, 2008

	Total non-mineral waste generated		Waste generation by origin, in %		
	1000 tonnes	kg per capita	Manufacturing	Other sectors <sup>2</sup>	Households
<b>EU27</b>	<b>919 320</b>	<b>1 843</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	25 842	2 413	31	53	17
<b>Bulgaria</b>	17 216	2 258	13	70	17
<b>Czech Republic</b>	12 391	1 189	33	42	25
<b>Denmark</b>	9 402	1 711	13	61	25
<b>Germany</b>	129 463	1 577	23	50	27
<b>Estonia</b>	11 014	8 216	33	63	4
<b>Ireland</b>	6 922	1 564	38	38	24
<b>Greece</b>	23 237	2 068	15	68	17
<b>Spain</b>	70 674	1 551	19	48	33
<b>France</b>	94 548	1 473	21	51	28
<b>Italy</b>	93 605	1 564	34	31	35
<b>Cyprus</b>	827	1 043	11	41	48
<b>Latvia</b>	u	u	30	26	44
<b>Lithuania</b>	6 070	1 807	43	35	22
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1 210	2 477	47	31	22
<b>Hungary</b>	12 118	1 207	23	49	29
<b>Malta</b>	401	974	4	54	42
<b>Netherlands</b>	39 842	2 423	35	42	22
<b>Austria</b>	22 920	2 749	52	32	17
<b>Poland</b>	61 253	1 607	36	53	11
<b>Portugal</b>	u	u	26	57	17
<b>Romania</b>	47 262	2 197	18	65	17
<b>Slovenia</b>	3 382	1 673	41	39	21
<b>Slovakia</b>	8 877	1 642	45	35	20
<b>Finland</b>	23 114	4 350	61	32	7
<b>Sweden</b>	23 377	2 536	48	33	19
<b>United Kingdom</b>	142 938	2 328	14	65	21
<b>Norway</b>	9 072	1 903	37	37	26

u: Data unreliable due to methodological issues

- Non-mineral waste** generated covers waste generated by all economic sectors and households, thus reflecting waste originating from production and from consumption. It covers hazardous and non-hazardous waste and waste from waste treatment (secondary waste), but excludes mineral wastes, soils and dredging spoils. Although the indicator focuses on non-mineral waste, it is considered to reflect the general trend in waste generation more accurately and in a more comparable way than the total including mineral waste. This is because:
  - Fluctuations in the mining and construction sectors, specific infrastructure measures or even methodological changes in data collection in one or a few countries would overlay general trends in waste generation in the rest of the economy, especially in small countries;
  - Comparison of data across countries indicates that data quality and comparability is lower in the construction and in the mining sector than in other economic sectors; and
  - For a considerable share of mineral waste, prevention is not the main environmental objective.
- Including agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, construction, services and wholesale of waste and scrap.
- Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus, 44/2011, "**Generation and treatment of waste in Europe 2008 - Steady reduction in waste going to landfills**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site. For further information, please visit the web site of Eurostat, under Statistics / Environment / [Environmental Data Centre on Waste](#) and the article in [Statistics Explained](#).

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