



[Main page](#)  
[Statistical themes](#)  
[Glossary](#)  
[Categories](#)  
[Tutorials](#)  
[Help](#)

[Eurostat yearbook](#)  
[Regional yearbook](#)  
[The EU in the world](#)  
[Statistics in focus](#)  
[Full list](#)

[Eurostat home](#)  
[Mobile version](#)  
[Contact Eurostat](#)

[What links here](#)  
[Special pages](#)  
[PDF version](#)

**English**

[Add this page](#)  
[Help](#)

# Packaging waste statistics

Data from April 2015. Most recent data: [Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database](#).  
Planned article update: April 2016.

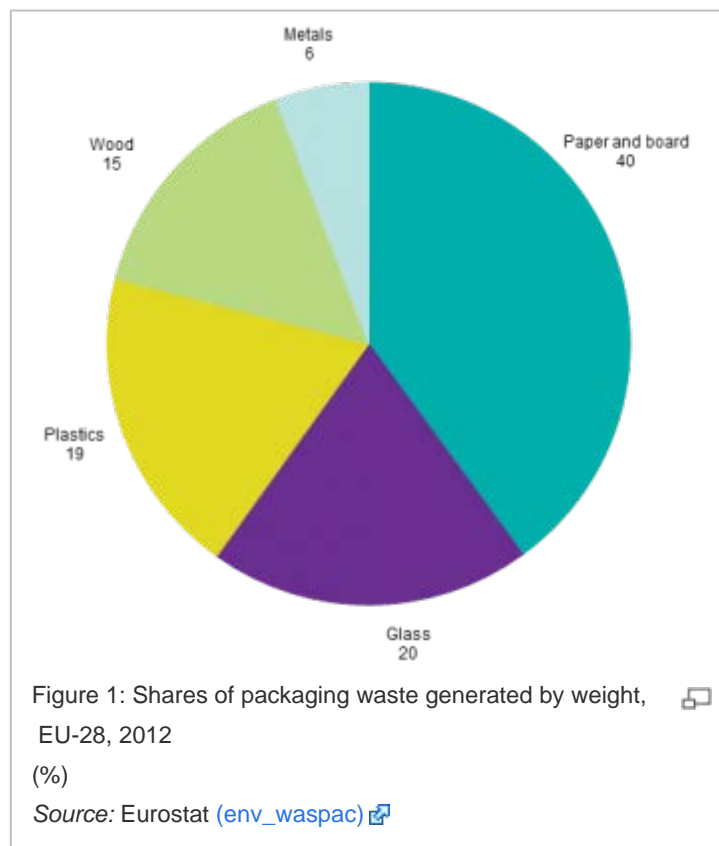
This article examines the recent statistics on packaging waste in the 28 [European Union \(EU\) Member States](#) <sup>[1]</sup>. In particular it summarises the developments during the 2005–12 period for which official reporting on packaging waste for all EU Member States was implemented.

The environmental impacts caused by the generation and treatment of [waste](#) are raising serious concerns. As waste generation also represents an inefficient use of valuable resources, prevention and better management of waste is one of the top priorities of the [EU's sustainable development strategy](#) . Although the magnitude of the different waste streams varies across European countries, it is possible to identify waste streams that require specific consideration — such as packaging waste.

## Contents

[\[hide\]](#)

- [1 Main statistical findings](#)
  - [1.1 Time series of packaging waste generation and treatment](#)
  - [1.2 Recycling and recovery targets](#)
  - [1.3 Overall recycling rates](#)
  - [1.4 Overall recovery rates](#)
  - [1.5 Export/import for recycling](#)
  - [1.6 Conclusions](#)
- [2 Data sources and availability](#)
- [3 Context](#)
  - [3.1 Historical flashback and example](#)
  - [3.2 Definitions](#)
- [4 See also](#)
- [5 Further Eurostat information](#)
  - [5.1 Publications](#)
  - [5.2 Main tables](#)



- [5.3 Database](#)
- [5.4 Dedicated section](#)
- [5.5 Methodology / Metadata](#)
- [5.6 Source data for tables and figures on this page \(MS Excel\)](#)
- [5.7 Other information](#)
- [6 External links](#)
- [7 Notes](#)

## Main statistical findings

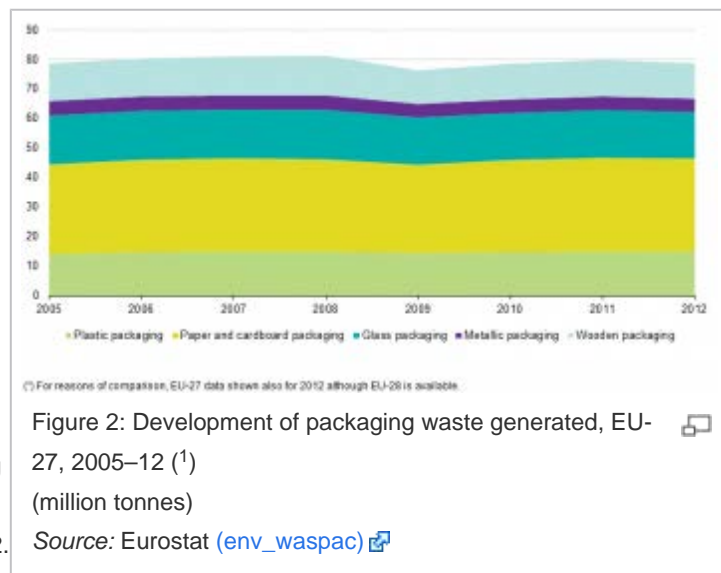
In 2012, 156.8 kg of packaging waste was generated per inhabitant in the EU-28. This quantity varied between 45.0 kg per inhabitant in Bulgaria and 206.2 kg per inhabitant in Germany (Figure 10). Figure 1 shows that paper and cardboard, glass, plastics, wood and metals are, in that order, the most common types of packaging waste in the EU Member States. All other materials represent less than 0.5 % of the total volume of packaging waste generated.

## Time series of packaging waste generation and treatment

Figure 2 shows a summary of the development of packaging waste generated from 2005 to 2012 for the EU-27. The total quantity of the five materials shown in the figure rose from 78.6 million tonnes in 2005 to 81.3 million tonnes in 2008. Afterwards the volume dropped to 76.3 million tonnes in 2009 and recovered in 2010 to 78.6 million tonnes and, in 2011, to 79.9 million tonnes. This was the first time a drop in packaging volume has occurred in the EU-15 since 1998 or in the EU-27 since 2005. This absolute decline is mostly due to 'paper and board', 'wood' and 'plastics' packaging whereas 'metals' and 'glass' did not experience a significant reduction from 2008 to 2009. This decline of packaging material might be due to the economic slump in 2009, as the [GDP](#) in the EU-27 turned negative in 2008–09.

In 2012 there was a second drop in the figures for overall packaging waste: the EU-28 presented a total of 79.1 million tonnes while the figure for the EU-27 was 78.9 million tonnes. There was a decrease of 1.5 % in the EU-27, and even when the packaging waste figures from Croatia are taken into account, the reduction amounted to 1.3 %.

Over the 8-year period paper and board is the main material of packaging waste generated which contributed with more than 31.5 million tonnes to the total packaging waste generated in 2012. Amounting to a total of 15.7 million tonnes in 2012, glass is the second most important packaging material. Plastics packaging material generated had a volume of 15.1 million tonnes, wood packaging 12.0 million tonnes and metal packaging 4.6 million tonnes in 2012. While all packaging materials



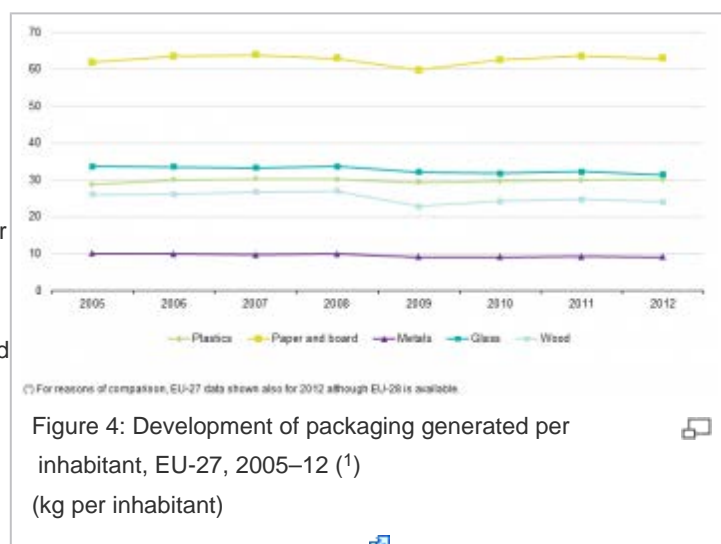
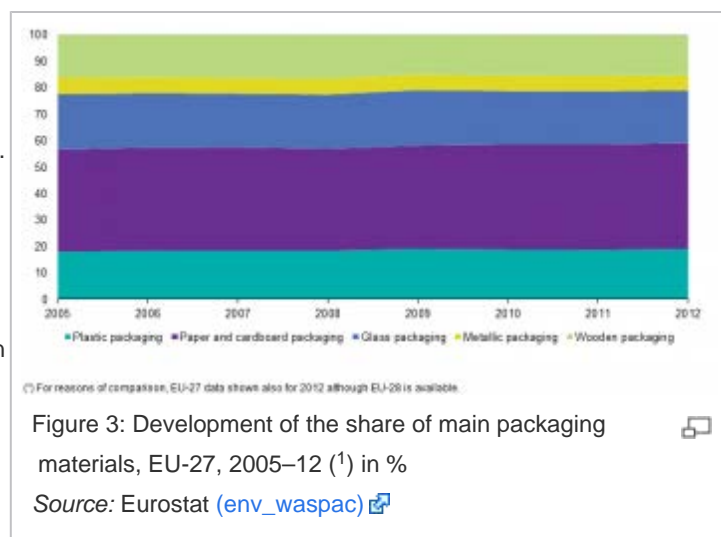
experienced a sharp decrease of 5.0 million tonnes (– 6 %) from 2008 to 2009, the decline was especially sharp for ‘paper and board’ and ‘wood’. The volume of ‘paper and board’ shrank by 1.5 million tonnes (– 5 %) and the volume of wood by 2.0 million tonnes (– 15 %). Both packaging materials held a high share of the transport packaging, especially the use of wood pallets. The decline can therefore be attributed to the dip in trade volume. Until 2011, both packaging materials generated recovered. ‘Paper and board’ exceeded pre-crisis volumes while for wood 11 % less waste was generated in 2012 than in 2008.

The decrease from 2011 to 2012 had a slightly different pattern compared with the 2008–09 decline in packaging waste. The decrease occurred in all material categories with the exception of plastic, which increased by 0.7 % in the EU-27. The largest percentage decrease took place in wooden packaging (– 3.2 %) followed by glass packaging (– 3.0 %). The generation of metallic packaging decreased by 1.3 % from 2011 to 2012 in the EU-27 while paper and cardboard decreased by 1.0 %.

The development of the share of packaging materials is shown in Figure 3. It presents the share of the major packaging materials which was quite stable during the 2005–12 period. The share of plastics increased from 17.9 % to 19.1 %. The share of paper and board went up from 38.6 % to 40.0 %. Metals declined from 6.2 % to 5.8 %, glass was reduced from 21.0 % to 19.9 % and wood shrank from 16.2 % to 15.2 %.

Another standard criterion for assessing the growth of generated waste is the correlation between the quantity of waste and the population. Figure 4 depicts the development of the quantity of waste per inhabitant by main waste materials. The total waste generation of the main packaging materials per inhabitant in the EU-27 in 2005 was 160.1 kg. The generation peaked in 2007 at 163.7 kg per inhabitant and afterwards shrank to 153.1 kg per inhabitant in 2009. In 2010 the packaging generated had somewhat recovered to 157.3 kg per inhabitant and increased to 159.5 kg per inhabitant in 2011, and in 2012 it fell back to 2010 levels (157.3 kg per inhabitant). Compared with the total volume of 2005, the total volume per inhabitant in 2012 decreased by 2.7 kg per inhabitant meaning that it was 1.7 % lower.

Figure 5 shows the evolution of the volume of overall packaging waste per inhabitant generated, recovered and recycled. The recycling sector plays a fundamental role in waste management. Recycling is crucial for both waste reduction and the reduction of consumption of natural resources. Increased recycling would also help the EU to be less dependent on raw material imports. Thus, it is not surprising that the recycling sector is growing in



economic importance in the EU and also makes a significant contribution

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))

to employment. Figure 5 highlights that the amount of packaging waste recycled and recovered rose more than the amount of packaging waste generated. While for the 2005–12 period the packaging waste generated shows a slow decline, the recycling and recovery volume in 2012 is significantly higher than in 2005. Even during the 2009 slump, the recycling and recovery volume only experienced a short reduction and in 2012 gained the highest volume since reporting started.

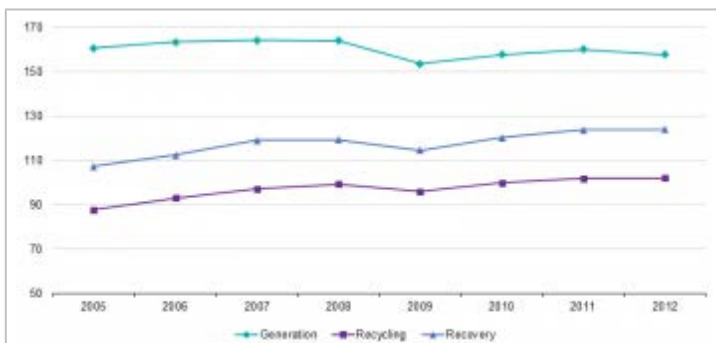
Figure 6 shows the corresponding evolution of the recycling and recovery rates during the 2005–12 timeframe. In the EU-27 the recycling rate of packaging waste went up from 54.6 % in 2005 to 64.6 % in 2012. The recycling rate and the recovery rate evolved in parallel. The recovery rate including incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery rose from 66.8 % in 2005 to 78.5 % in 2012.

Figure 7 shows the share of treatment options for the overall packaging waste. 'Other forms of recovery' add only a very minor share. The major form of recovery in all countries is recycling. In some EU Member States 'Energy recovery' and 'Incineration with energy recovery' contributed significantly to the overall recovery rate. Especially EU Member States which utilise 'Incineration with energy recovery' as a standard method of waste disposal achieved a significantly higher recovery rate. This was typically the case of Nordic countries but also Belgium, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands and Austria. These EU Member States all presented incineration values with energy recovery rates at over 10 %.

## Recycling and recovery targets

Article 6 of the [Packaging Waste Directive](#) sets out the recovery and recycling targets for the years 2001 and 2008.

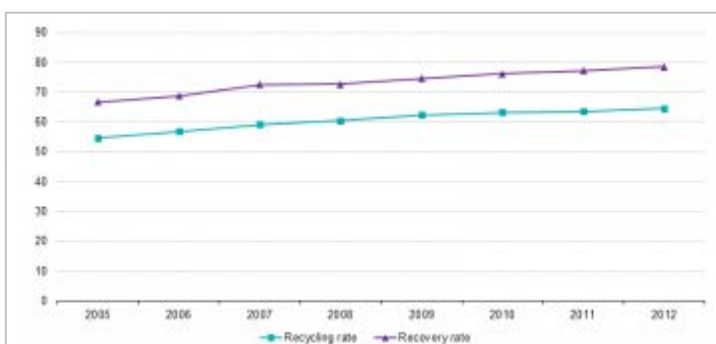
Table 1 shows the recovery and



(\*) For reasons of comparability, EU-27 data shown also for 2012 although EU-26 is available.

Figure 5: Development of overall packaging waste generated, recovered and recycled, EU-27, 2005–12 <sup>(1)</sup> (kg per inhabitant)

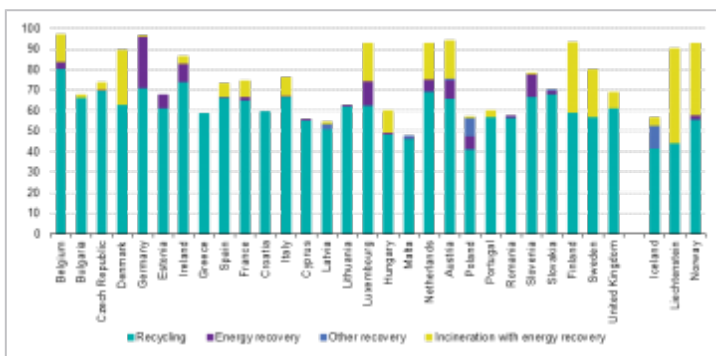
Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))



(\*) For reasons of comparability, EU-27 data shown also for 2012 although EU-26 is available.

Figure 6: Development of recycling and recovery rates for packaging, EU-27, 2005–12 <sup>(1)</sup> (% by weight)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))



recycling rates of the EU-28 Member States for 2012 according to which Belgium held both the highest recovery rate (97.0 %) and the highest recycling rate (80.3 %).

Table 2 shows the first and second stages of targets which are set in the packaging waste directive. The 2001 target sets a 50–65 % target on recovery (Art. 6(1)(a)), a 25 % target on recycling of all materials and a 15 % target for each material (Art. 6(1)(c)). These targets are calculated according to the weight; by dividing the amount of packaging waste recycled by the total amount of packaging waste generated. The targets had to be met by different dates from June 2001 to the end of 2008 for all EU Member States except for some countries (see Table 2). Croatia has no obligations to meet the recycling and recovery targets before the end of 2013.

For the 2008 targets, for each of the five packaging waste materials a minimum recycling rate by weight is required according to Article 6(1)(e) of the Packaging Waste Directive. Additionally a recycling target for the totality of the weight of materials of 55–80 % is laid down in Article 6(1)(d). For recovery the directive seeks a minimum recovery rate of 60 % (Art. 6(1)(b)). Table 2 also shows the deadlines for the 2008 targets according to the directive. Some EU Member States also have year-by-year targets.

Figure 8 shows the recovery rates of packaging waste in 2012 for each EU Member State and also the target which needs to be met. The table shows that the recovery rate in Portugal (59.9 %), Italy (59.7 %), Greece (58.6 %) and Cyprus (55.7 %) fell below the 2008 target of 60.0 % which should have been

Figure 7: Share of treatment for overall packaging waste, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))

	Recovery rate	Recycling rate
<b>EU-28</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>64.6</b>
Belgium	97.0	80.3
Bulgaria	67.5	66.5
Czech Republic	73.6	69.9
Denmark	89.4	63.0
Germany	96.8	71.3
Estonia	67.8	61.3
Ireland	86.6	74.0
Greece	58.6	58.6
Spain	73.0	66.5
France	74.7	64.9
Italy	59.7	59.7
Croatia	76.3	66.6
Cyprus	55.7	55.3
Latvia	54.6	51.1
Lithuania	62.5	62.2
Luxembourg	93.0	62.5
Hungary	60.1	48.5
Malta	47.5	46.6
Netherlands	92.7	69.3
Austria	94.0	65.9
Poland	57.1	41.4
Portugal	59.9	56.9
Romania	57.4	56.8
Slovenia	78.0	66.9
Slovakia	70.0	68.1
Finland	93.3	59.3
Sweden	80.1	56.9
United Kingdom	69.1	61.4
Iceland	56.5	41.8
Liechtenstein	90.0	44.3
Norway	92.7	55.9

Table 1: Recovery and recycling rate for packaging waste, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))

First stage (2001)		Recovery		Recycling			
Article in 'Packaging Directive'		56 <sup>(1)(a)</sup> (Overall target: 50-65 %)		56 <sup>(1)(c)</sup> (Plastics: 15 %)			
Malta	2009						2009
Bulgaria	2011						2009
Romania	2011						2011

Second stage (2008)		Recovery		Recycling				
Article in 'Packaging Directive'		56 <sup>(1)(b)</sup> (Overall target: 60 %)	56 <sup>(1)(d)</sup> (Overall target: 55-60 %)	56 <sup>(1)(e)(i)</sup> (Glass: min. 50 %)	56 <sup>(1)(e)(ii)</sup> (Paper and board: min. 60 %)	56 <sup>(1)(e)(iii)</sup> (Metals: min. 50 %)	56 <sup>(1)(e)(iv)</sup> (Plastics: min. 22.5 %)	56 <sup>(1)(e)(v)</sup> (Wood: min. 15 %)
Belgium	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Denmark	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Germany	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Spain	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
France	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Italy	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Luxembourg	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Netherlands	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Austria	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Finland	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Sweden	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
United Kingdom	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
Greece	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
Ireland	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
Portugal	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
Czech Republic	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Estonia	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Cyprus	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Lithuania	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Hungary	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Slovenia	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Slovakia	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Malta	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
Poland	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014
Latvia	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
Bulgaria	2014	2014	2013	2008	2008	2008	2013	2008
Romania	2013	2013	2013	2008	2008	2008	2013	2011

(<sup>1</sup>) The target dates in the table always refer to the end of the year.  
 (<sup>2</sup>) The data for wood shall not be used for the purpose of evaluating the target of a minimum of 15 % by weight for each packaging material, as provided for in article 6<sup>(3)(c)</sup> of Directive 94/62/EC, as amended by Directive 2004/12/EC.

Table 2: First and second stage targets and the years in which they must be achieved (<sup>1</sup>)(<sup>2</sup>)

Source: Council Directive 94/62/EC

reached in 2012.

The recovery rate of Malta was 47.5 %, 2.5 percentage points (pp) below the 2001 target.

Figure 9 shows the recycling rate of packaging waste in 2012, as well as the targets each group of EU Member States were to meet in 2012. Hungary (48.5 %) did not reach the 55.0 % target of recycling rate for total packaging waste.

## Overall recycling rates

The overall amounts of packaging waste generated and recycled are compiled for all packaging materials including 'glass', 'paper and board', 'metals', 'plastics', others and 'wood'. Figure 10 gives an overview of the data reported by the EU Member States in 2012 on the overall generation and recycling of packaging per inhabitant. The Member States that joined the EU before 2004 generally showed the highest amount of packaging waste generated except Greece. Of these EU Member States, Austria, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Finland showed a significantly lower amount of packaging waste generated (all under 150 kg/inhabitant). Romania, Croatia

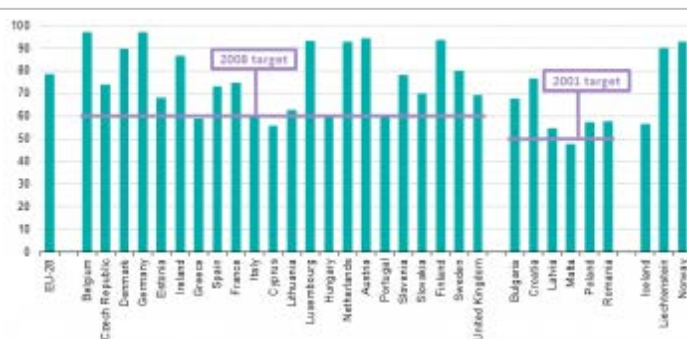


Figure 8: Recovery rate of packaging waste, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat (env\_waspac)

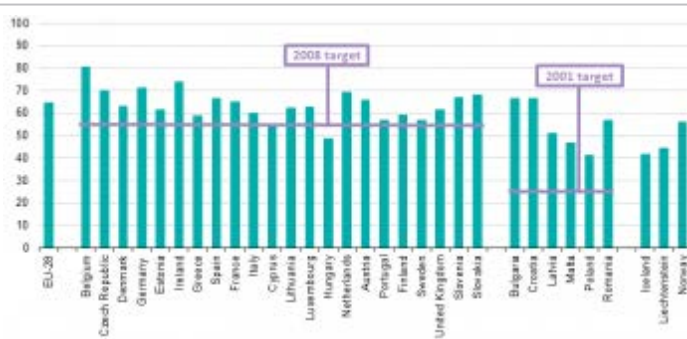


Figure 9: Recycling rate of packaging waste, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat (env\_waspac)

and Bulgaria (53 kg, 47 kg and 45 kg/inhabitant, respectively) exhibited the lowest amount of all EU Member States. Estonia had the highest figure (149 kg/inhabitant) for packaging waste generation among the Member States that joined the EU after 2004.

Figure 11 shows the overall recycling rate. The 2008 target was 55.0 %. In 2012, with the exception of Hungary, all EU Member States subject to meeting the 2008 target recycling rate by the end of 2012 achieved the target. Other EU Member States already had recycling rates above the 2008 target: Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.

## Overall recovery rates

Figure 12 shows the recovery rate for all packaging materials. The 2001 target for recovery was 50.0 % and the 2008 target was 60.0 %. All EU Member States subject to the 2001 target — with the exception of Malta (48 %) — exceeded the recovery target of 50 %. In 2012 the 2008 target was achieved by all EU Member States with the exception of Greece and Cyprus (recovery rates of 59 % and 56 % respectively).

Two other EU Member States with targets set in the future already had met the recovery rate set in the 2008 target and showed rates equal to or above 60 %: Bulgaria and Croatia.

## Export/import for recycling

Figure 13 shows the overall recycling rate and the corresponding export share. An often cited argument for the recycling economy is the additional work places which should come with a growing recycling industry. For small EU Member States the necessary scale for an efficient recycling industry is missing.

As is shown in Figure 13 the small EU Member States exhibited export rates of well over 60 % (Malta, Luxembourg, Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Estonia, as well as Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway) whereas the export share of bigger EU Member States were only 30 % and lower (Germany, Spain and Italy). Please note that only data on

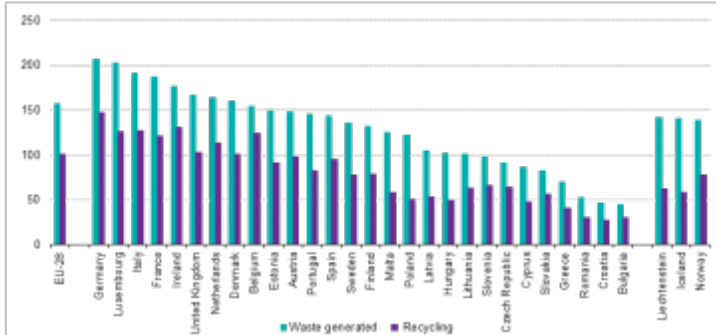


Figure 10: Volume of overall packaging waste generated and recycled per inhabitant, 2012 (kg per inhabitant)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))

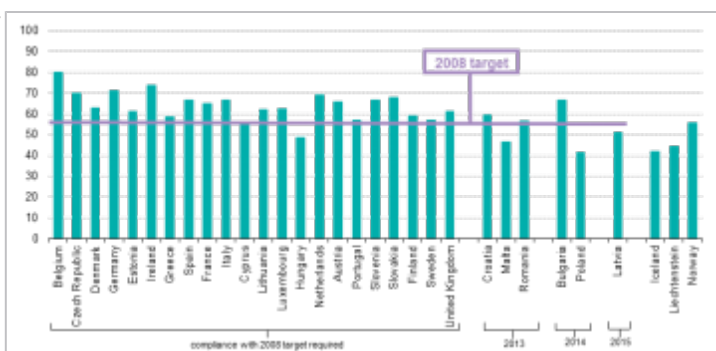


Figure 11: Recycling rate for all packaging, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))



Figure 12: Recovery rate for all packaging, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))

export for recycling are mandatory while data on imports are voluntary. Import data are not reported because a homogeneous data set is missing.

## Conclusions

- The data on packaging waste are hosted by [Eurostat](#) and are available in the [Waste](#) dissemination database.
- As shown in this article, the database allows a wide range of analysis.
- The data reveal that the amount of packaging waste generated in the EU-27 has slightly increased until 2008.
- Due to the 2008 global financial and economic crisis, the amount of packaging generated decreased but recovered in 2010 and 2011 and in 2012 the volume of packaging waste dropped to the level of 2010.
- Over the 2005–12 period, 'plastic' and 'paper and board' packaging increased while 'metal' and 'glass' packaging slightly decreased.
- The absolute amount of recycling and recovery has been constant or increased from 2005 to 2012.
- The recycling and recovery rate has increased steadily.

The nature and dimension of waste-related impacts on the environment depend upon the amount and composition of waste streams as well as on the method of treating them. EU Member States deliver [quantitative data](#), to be reported under EU waste legislation, to a single data entry point, the [Waste Data Centre](#) operated by Eurostat.

Data for specific waste streams as well as official waste statistics are becoming available in a common reporting, processing and dissemination environment to allow for cross-validations and assessments.

This one-stop-shop approach allows policy-makers, stakeholders, users from other European bodies and the interested public to find the data needed to assess the effectiveness of the EU's waste policy.

## Data sources and availability

The packaging waste data is reported by the EU Member States as laid down in Commission Decision 2005/270/EC. The reported data is usually available in the [Waste](#) Eurostat database on packaging waste approximately 21 months after the end of the reference year.

The analysis is focusing on the EU-28 in 2012 as data on packaging waste are available for all current EU Member States as of the reporting year 2012. Whereas looking into time series, and comparing 2012 data with previous years the analysis is carried out at [EU-27](#) level, since data for Croatia are not available prior to 2012.

Croatia has reported 198 606 tonnes of packaging waste in 2012, which corresponds to 0.25 % of the EU-28 total generated packaging waste. The indicator per inhabitant calculated for Croatia is 46.5 kg of waste per inhabitant and is the second lowest in the EU. Data for the [EU-15](#) is also available from 1997 onwards except per inhabitant. Data from previous reporting years for the EU-27 (2002–04) is not included because data for the entry year are not sufficiently robust for many packaging materials.

## Context

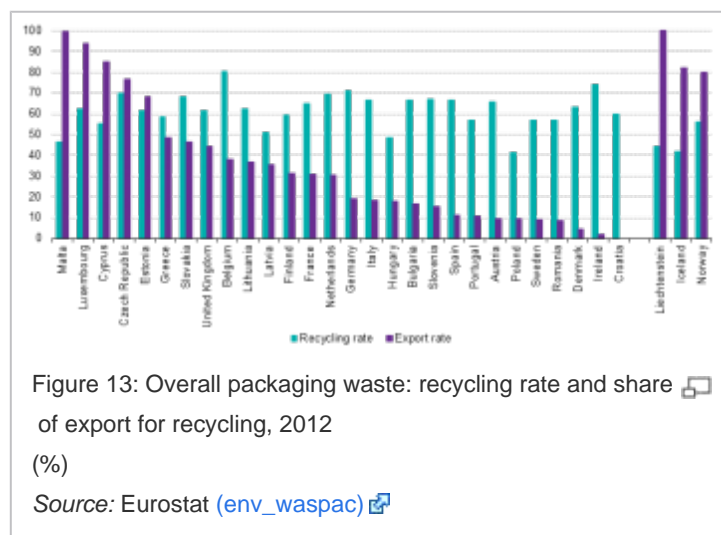


Figure 13: Overall packaging waste: recycling rate and share of export for recycling, 2012 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([env\\_waspac](#))



Packaging legislation is driven by [European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC](#) of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste, as amended by [Directive 2004/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) (Packaging Waste Directive) and is concerned with minimising the creation of packaging waste material. It promotes reuse, recycling and energy recovery of packaging.

However, as a first legal basis, [Council Directive 85/339/EEC](#) of June 1985 required the establishment of national programmes for the reduction of the volume of beverage containers disposed as waste in order to raise consumer awareness on the advantage of using refillable containers. These programmes began on 1 January 1987 and have been updated every four years since then. Great emphasis was put on the recycling of such containers.

The directive was repealed by the introduction of the Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC in 1994. This directive aims at harmonising national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste in order, on the one hand, to prevent any impact thereof on the environment of all EU Member States and third countries, or to reduce such an impact, thus providing a high level of environmental protection, and, on the other hand, to ensure the functioning of the internal market. Obstacles to trade and distortion and restriction of competition within the Community shall be avoided. To this end, this directive lays down measures aimed, as a first priority, at preventing the production of packaging waste and, as additional fundamental principles, at:

- reusing packaging;
- recycling; and
- implementing other forms of recovering packaging waste hence reducing the final disposal of such waste.

It also limits the level of heavy metals in packaging.

The Packaging Waste Directive set out the following targets (by no later than 31 December 2008): a minimum of 60.0 % recovery rate (including waste incineration); between 55.0 % and 80.0 % by weight of packaging waste to be recycled; with minimum rates of 60.0 % by weight for glass, paper and cardboard; 50.0 % by weight for metals; 22.5 % by weight for plastics; and 15.0 % by weight for wood. Not all EU Member States received the same deadline to attain these targets. The deadlines were in fact laid down in Commission Directive (2004/12/EC) — see also Table 2.

Commission Decision 2005/270/EC of March 2005 established a common format on which reporting by EU Member States is based.

## Historical flashback and example

In France, the [municipal waste](#) generated increased during the 1960–90 period from almost 220 kg per inhabitant to approximately 360 kg per inhabitant. However, during the same period, packaging waste rose from approximately 36 kg per inhabitant to almost 120 kg per inhabitant. As municipal waste increased by 63 %, packaging waste grew by 233 %.

Taking into account that the standard waste treatment in the 1980s was landfill, the waste volume might serve as a better benchmark since general estimates show that packaging waste with a weight share of 30 % may constitute up to 50 % of the waste volume. This underlines that packaging waste has an important impact on landfill capacity.

In recent decades many EU Member States have been striving to raise the environmental standards for waste disposal facilities for both incineration and landfill. Many smaller landfill facilities were closed and the construction of new ones was rarely approved. For Germany at the end of the 1980s, the landfill reserve capacities in some regions were estimated to last for a maximum of 2 to 5 years.

## Definitions

Packaging is defined as any material which is used to contain, protect, handle, deliver and present goods. Packaging waste can arise from a wide range of sources including supermarkets, retail outlets, manufacturing industries, households, hotels, hospitals, restaurants and transport companies. Items like glass bottles, plastic containers, aluminium cans, food wrappers, timber pallets and drums are all classified as packaging.

The classification of packaging waste and ordinary waste is defined according to the three criteria in Article 3 of the Packaging Waste Directive and highlighted in Annex I.

In contrast to other waste statistics, the term 'packaging waste generated' means not the amount of 'packaging collected', but rather all 'packaging placed on the market'.

The main packaging materials are glass, paper and board, plastics, metals (aluminium and steel) and wood.

Composite materials are made of paper, plastic and metal which could not be separated by hand. Composites are reported under their predominant material by weight. Other packaging materials are counted as 'others'.

Recycling is divided in 'material recycling' (the reprocessing to the original material) and other forms of recycling (including the reprocessing for other purposes such as organic recycling).

Recovery includes recycling, energy recovery (e.g. as fuel in cement kilns or blast furnaces), other forms of recovery and waste incineration with energy recovery. Energy recovery means energy generation from waste at special incineration plants. Incineration with energy recovery and the other forms of recovery are defined by Annex II.b in the Waste Framework Directive 75/442/EEC (amended).

The weight of recovered or recycled packaging waste is determined as the input to an effective process or, for practical reasons, as the output of a sorting plant which is sent to an effective recovery or recycling process. The weight should exclude non-packaging materials as far as practical.

Reusable packaging is only counted once in their lifetime and not after every refilling and purchase trip.

The recycling or recovery rates are the total quantity of recycled or recovered materials divided by the total quantity of generated packaging material.

## See also

- [Environment statistics introduced](#)
- [Waste statistics](#)
- [Municipal waste statistics](#)
- [Waste shipment statistics](#)
- [End-of-life vehicle statistics](#)
- [Waste statistics - electrical and electronic equipment](#)
- [Archive:Greenhouse gas emissions from waste disposal](#)

## Further Eurostat information

### Publications


All [publications on waste](#) issued by Eurostat.

### Main tables

- [Waste statistics](#), see:  
Waste streams (t\_env\_wasst)

Recovery rates for packaging waste (ten00062)  
Recycling rates for packaging waste (ten00063)

## Database

- [Waste](#) , see:
  - Waste (env\_was)
  - Waste generation and treatment (env\_wasgt)
  - Waste streams (env\_wasst)
  - Packaging waste (env\_waspac)

## Dedicated section

- [Environmental Data Centre on Waste](#) 




## Methodology / Metadata

- [Packaging waste](#)  (ESMS metadata file — env\_waspac\_esms)

## Source data for tables and figures on this page (MS Excel)

- [Packaging waste April 2015 - tables and figures](#) 

## Other information

- [Commission Decision 2005/270/EC](#)  of 22 March 2005 establishing the formats relating to the database system pursuant to [Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council](#)  of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste
- [Directive 2004/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council](#)  of 11 February 2004 on packaging and packaging waste

## External links

- [European Commission — Environment — Packaging waste](#) 
- [European Environment Agency — Waste and material resources](#) 

## Notes

1. ↑ Data on packaging waste statistics is only available for EU-28 in 2012, in previous years data for Croatia was not included.

Categories: [Environment](#) | [Statistical article](#) | [Waste](#)

This page was last modified on 15 December 2015, at 15:16.

This page has been accessed 62,570 times. [2 watching users](#)

[Privacy policy](#) [About Statistics Explained](#) [Disclaimers](#)