

MUNICIPAL WASTE

The amount of municipal waste generated in a country is related to the rate of urbanisation, the types and patterns of consumption, household revenue and lifestyles. While municipal waste is only one part of total waste generated in each country, its management and treatment often absorbs more than one third of the public sector's financial efforts to abate and control pollution.

The main concerns raised by municipal waste are the potential impact from inappropriate waste management on human health and the environment (soil and water contamination, air quality, land use and landscape).

Definition

Municipal waste is waste collected and treated by or for municipalities. It covers waste from households, including bulky waste, similar waste from commerce and trade, office buildings, institutions and small businesses, yard and garden waste, street sweepings, the contents of litter containers, and market cleansing waste. The definition excludes waste from municipal sewage networks and treatment, as well as waste from construction and demolition activities.

The kilogrammes of municipal waste per capita produced each year – or “waste generation intensities” – provide one broad indicator of the potential environmental and health pressures from municipal waste. They should be complemented with information on waste management practices and costs, and on consumption levels and patterns.

Overview

The quantity of municipal waste generated in the OECD area has risen strongly since 1980, and exceeded an estimated 650 million tonnes in 2010 (540 kg per capita).

In most countries for which data are available, increased affluence, associated with economic growth, and changes in consumption patterns tend to generate higher rates of waste per capita. Over the past twenty years, waste generation has however risen at a lower rate than private final consumption expenditure and GDP, with a slowdown in recent years.

The amount and composition of municipal waste going to final disposal depends on national waste management practices. Despite improvements in these practices, only a few countries have succeeded in reducing the quantity of solid waste to be disposed of.

Comparability

The definition of municipal waste and the surveying methods used to collect information vary from country to country and over time. Breaks in time series exist for: the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey.

The main problems in terms of data comparability relate to the coverage of waste from commerce and trade, and of separate waste collections carried out by private companies.

In some cases the reference year refers to the closest available year.

Data for New Zealand refer to the amount going to landfill only. Portugal includes Azores and Madeira Islands. Data for China do not cover waste produced in rural areas.

Time series data for the OECD total exclude Estonia, Israel and Slovenia.

Sources

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Further information

Analytical publications

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- OECD (2004), *Addressing the Economics of Waste*, OECD Publishing.
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Methodological publications

- OECD (2009), *Guidance Manual for the Control of Transboundary Movements of Recoverable Wastes*, OECD Publishing.
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Websites

- OECD Waste Prevention and Management, www.oecd.org/env/waste.



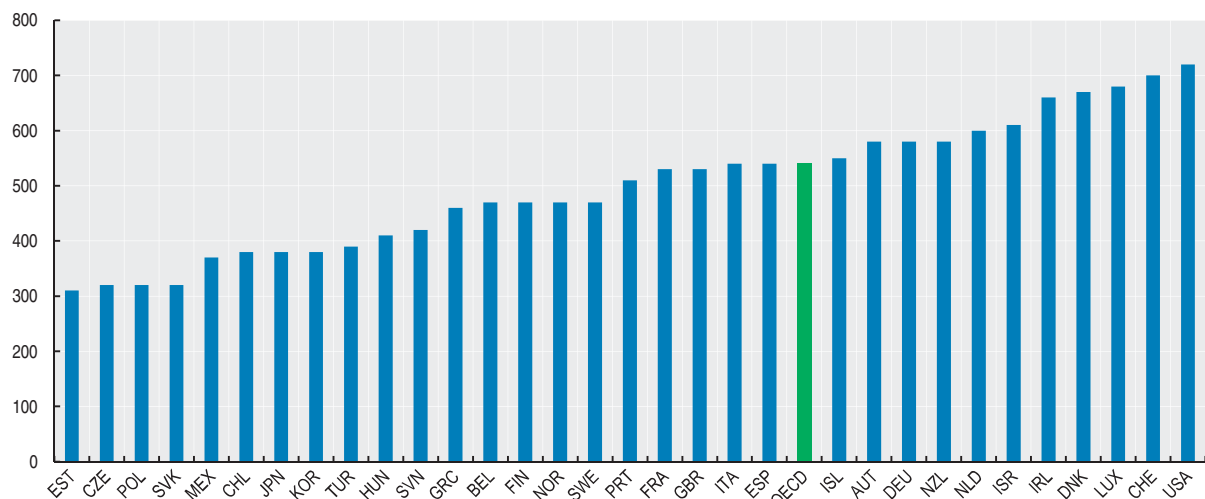
Municipal waste generation

	Generation intensities kg per capita							Total amount generated Thousand tonnes
	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010 or latest available year	2010 or latest available year
Australia	700	..	690	..	690	..	..	..
Austria	..	..	420	430	530	560	580	4 840
Belgium	280	310	340	450	480	480	470	5 070
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chile	200	230	250	280	330	350	380	6 520
Czech Republic	..	..	..	300	330	290	320	3 330
Denmark	400	480	..	520	610	660	670	3 730
Estonia	..	..	..	370	460	440	310	420
Finland	..	..	..	410	500	480	470	2 520
France	..	..	450	480	510	530	530	34 540
Germany	..	..	790	620	640	560	580	47 690
Greece	260	300	300	300	410	440	460	5 180
Hungary	..	..	530	460	450	460	410	4 130
Iceland	..	..	..	430	460	520	550	180
Ireland	190	310	..	510	600	730	660	2 950
Israel	..	..	..	..	630	590	610	4 630
Italy	250	270	350	450	510	540	540	32 110
Japan	380	350	410	420	430	410	380	48 110
Korea	..	510	710	390	360	370	380	18 580
Luxembourg	350	360	580	580	650	680	680	340
Mexico	..	..	250	330	310	340	370	40 060
Netherlands	490	480	500	550	610	620	600	9 930
New Zealand	650	..	990	870	770	780	580	2 530
Norway	550	590	550	640	620	430	470	2 300
Poland	280	300	290	290	320	320	320	12 040
Portugal	200	230	300	390	440	450	510	5 460
Slovak Republic	..	360	300	300	320	270	320	1 720
Slovenia	..	..	..	600	510	420	420	860
Spain	..	..	..	510	660	590	540	24 660
Sweden	300	320	370	400	430	480	470	4 360
Switzerland	440	530	610	600	660	660	700	5 450
Turkey	270	360	360	460	480	460	390	28 210
United Kingdom	..	..	470	500	580	590	530	32 450
United States	610	630	760	740	780	770	720	220 410
EU 27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	..	440	510	520	560	560	540	658 400
Brazil	..	..	..	..	330	320	270	51 430
China	..	..	210	280	260	280	250	157 340
India	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	..
Russian Federation	160	170	190	340	350	400	480	69 260
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932709358>

Municipal waste generation

kg per capita, 2010 or latest available year



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932709377>





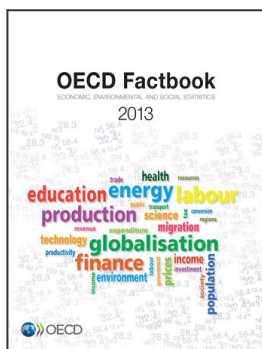
EDUCATION

OUTCOMES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT
DISADVANTAGES IN SCHOOLS
CAREER ASPIRATIONS OF 15-YEAR-OLDS
YOUTH INACTIVITY
HOW MANY STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD?
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

RESOURCES

EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE PER STUDENT
PRIVATE EXPENDITURE IN TERTIARY EDUCATION
EDUCATION EXPENDITURE



From:
OECD Factbook 2013
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2013-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Municipal waste", in *OECD Factbook 2013: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2013-71-en>

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