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In 2016, 92.2 per cent of the 249,711 tonnes of municipal waste that were treated, was landfilled.

Municipal Waste: 2016

Administrative data provided by WasteServ Malta Ltd. and the Environment and Resources Authority shows that in 2016 municipal waste generation amounted to 282,709 tonnes, up by 13,049 tonnes over 2015. On a per capita basis, this amounted to 642 kilograms, which is 3.4 per cent higher when compared to 2015.

Mixed municipal waste comprised 62.8 per cent (177,464 tonnes) of the total municipal waste generation in 2016, decreasing by 2.9 per cent over the previous year. Bulky waste, which is also another mixed waste stream, made up 15.4 per cent (43,653 tonnes) of the total waste generation, an increase of 35.6 per cent over 2015.

The data breakdown by waste origin shows that the black bag collection from local councils constituted 48.3 per cent (136,619 tonnes) of the total municipal waste generation in 2016. The equivalent figure for the green/grey bag and glass collection from households was 6.1 per cent (17,113 tonnes). In comparison to 2015, the black bag collection from local councils decreased by 5.8 per cent whilst the green/grey bag and glass collection increased by 14.7 per cent. For the third year in a row, municipal waste that was disposed in bring-in sites has seen a decrease which in 2016 amounted to 4.7 per cent (Table 1).

Municipal waste treatment

In 2016, the total amount of municipal waste that was landfilled went down by 10,603 tonnes when compared to 2015. The share of landfilling from the total municipal waste treated stood at 92.2 per cent, down from the 92.8 per cent that was recorded in 2015. In 2016, a shift in the composition of waste that was disposed at the landfill occurred due to the commencement of operations at the Malta North Mechanical-Biological Treatment plant. The share of mixed municipal waste decreased from 59.0 per cent in 2015 to 36.3 per cent in 2016, while rejects from the mechanical treatment of waste increased from 16.2 per cent to 30.3 per cent.

During the year under review, the share of material recycling advanced from 6.9 per cent to 7.6 per cent. At 56.0 per cent (10,555 tonnes) paper and cardboard made up the bulk of recycled amounts, followed by metals standing at 16.0 per cent (3,022 tonnes). In 2016 there was a threefold increase in the difference between municipal waste generation and treatment mainly resulting from the increase in sorted material that was held in storage prior to being exported for final treatment (Table 2) ■

Chart 1. Municipal waste generation

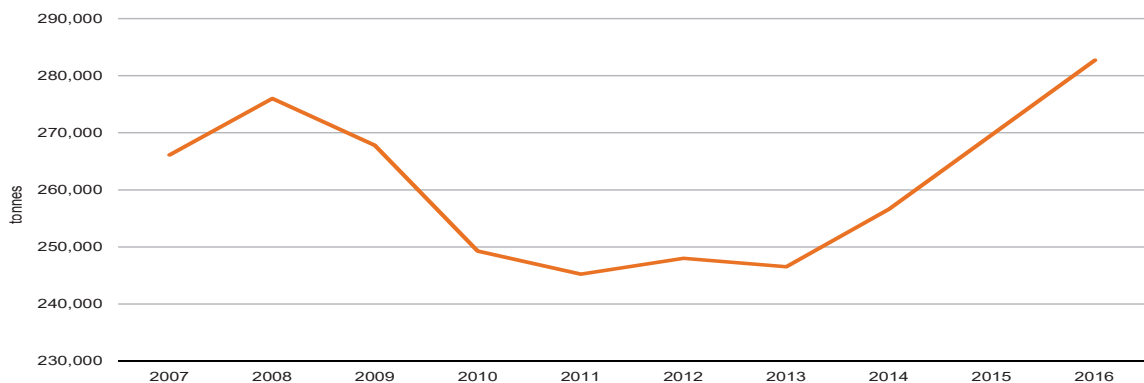


Table 1. Municipal waste generation

	tonnes				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 ^P
Municipal waste generation - Total	247,997	246,521	256,630	269,660	282,709
<i>by waste type:</i>					
Paper and cardboard	4,249	2,560	6,405	6,830	6,852
Plastic	1,690	1,917	1,642	1,168	1,085
Metals	1,598	3,733	1,462	1,347	1,723
Glass	2,086	2,463	2,658	3,707	1,407
Wood	12,106	14,698	14,101	14,601	17,716
Waste electrical and electronic equipment *	1,197	1,210	1,252	1,176	1,803
Biodegradable garden and park waste	7,472	6,548	7,738	6,660	7,610
Mixed packaging	10,868	12,036	12,582	14,469	16,140
Mixed municipal waste	174,988	168,450	174,062	182,672	177,464
Street cleaning residues	3,659	3,607	3,039	3,649	4,633
Bulky waste	25,422	26,099	29,466	32,182	43,653
Other *	2,662	3,200	2,223	1,198	2,622
<i>by waste origin:</i>					
Bring-in sites	3,447	4,043	3,740	2,652	2,527
Civic amenity sites *	12,338	13,050	14,370	16,994	18,236
Green/Grey bag and glass collection	10,720	11,729	12,891	14,926	17,113
Black bag collection - local councils	132,075	133,528	139,837	144,993	136,619
Black bag collection - other	42,914	34,922	34,224	37,679	40,845
Street cleaning	3,659	3,607	3,039	3,649	4,633
Other *	42,844	45,642	48,528	48,767	62,736
Municipal waste generation per capita - kilograms	589	580	598	621	642

Source: WasteServ Malta Ltd.; ERA; NSO

* includes hazardous waste

^P provisional

Chart 2. Municipal waste generation per capita

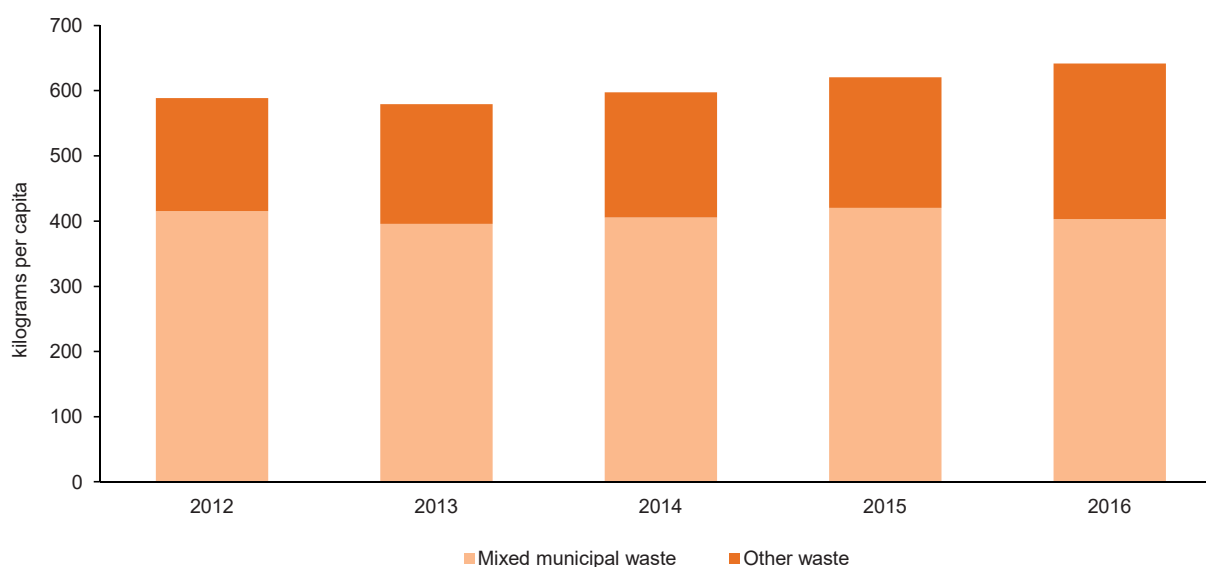


Table 2. Municipal waste treatment

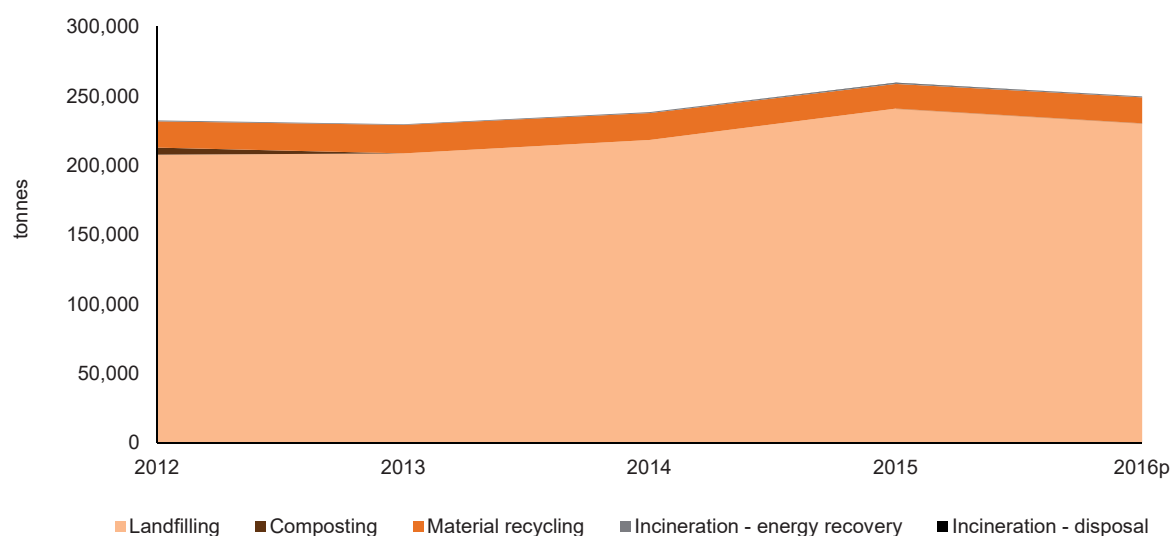
	tonnes				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 ^P
Municipal waste treatment - Total	232,334	229,676	238,382	259,508	249,711
Landfilling	207,611	208,673	218,314	240,795	230,192
Wood	84	146	48	14,447 ^P	16,652
Digestate from anaerobic digestion	-	4,113	3,892	2,798	5,866
Refuse derived fuel	176	188	312	-	-
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	46,398	48,246	44,290	38,891	69,795
Biodegradable garden and park waste	7,472	6,551	7,733	6,660	7,246
Mixed packaging	152	281	240	160	51
Mixed municipal waste	126,393	120,597	130,262	142,063	83,627
Street-cleaning residues	2,763	2,721	2,326	3,650	4,625
Bulky waste	24,172	25,830	29,211	32,108	42,030
Other *	-	1	-	18	300
Material recycling	18,917	20,407	19,261	17,947	18,860
Paper and cardboard	10,867	10,754	10,236	10,345	10,555
Plastic	2,777	2,302	2,752	2,149	2,307
Metals	2,144	2,434	2,169	1,640	3,022
Glass	1,644	3,284	2,397	2,387	931
Waste electrical and electronic equipment *	1,217	1,180	1,359	1,205	1,748
Other *	269	453	347	222	297
Composting	5,119	-	-	-	-
Digestate from anaerobic digestion	5,119	-	-	-	-
Incineration - energy recovery	668	552	753	725	631
Refuse derived fuel	668	552	753	725	631
Incineration - disposal	19	44	54	41	28
Solvents, paints, inks, adhesives and resins *	19	44	53	39	28
Other	-	-	0	2	-

Source: WasteServ Malta Ltd.; ERA

* includes hazardous waste

^P provisional

Chart 3. Municipal waste treatment



Methodological Notes

1. Data presented in this news release is based on the methodology that is applied for the Municipal Waste Sustainable Development indicator which is compiled annually for Eurostat by NSO. The latest data transmission to Eurostat occurred in November 2017. This news release provides an updated version of this data.
2. Eurostat data on municipal waste generation and treatment which is expressed as kilograms per capita is compiled by means of data about the total population as at 1st January. In this news release the municipal waste generation per capita is calculated according to the total population as at 31st December.
3. Table 2 presents data for the five final treatment categories under which municipal waste can be classified. Data is inclusive of waste exports to overseas final treatment facilities, occurring due to the limited treatment capacity in Malta available for hazardous waste and waste undergoing recycling and energy recovery operations. In general the disposal by means of landfilling and incineration is carried out in Malta, whilst material recycling and energy recovery are carried out abroad.
4. The difference between municipal waste generation and municipal waste treatment mainly refers to the storage of sorted municipal waste. Difference in weight also occurs as a result of the anaerobic digestion process.
5. The data for composting and/or fermentation for 2012 refers to the use of digestate (compost) produced by the Sant' Antnin anaerobic digestion plant, as landfill cover at Magħtab. Since 2013 the digestate produced has been landfilled.
6. Data for 2016 is to be considered as provisional.
7. Definitions:
 - **Municipal waste:** Waste that is generated from households and waste that is similar in nature and composition to household waste that is generated by businesses and institutions. This waste is collected by or on behalf of municipal authorities and disposed of through the waste management system.
 - **Bring-in sites:** Collection depots for clean source segregated recyclable materials. Four types of materials are collected: glass, metals, plastic and paper/cardboard.
 - **Civic amenity sites:** Collection depots for the separate disposal of household bulky waste and recyclables. Up to 2015 there were six sites operated by WasteServ Malta Ltd.
 - **Green/Grey bag collection:** Door-to-door collection of mixed paper, metals and plastics from households on pre-determined weekdays. As from 2014 door-to-door collection of glass is also taking place.
 - **Black bag collection:** Door-to-door collection of mixed organic and recyclable waste primarily from households but also including waste from businesses and institutions on pre-determined weekdays.
 - **Landfilling:** Disposal of waste into or onto land, including specially engineered landfill.
 - **Recycling:** Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes, except use as fuel.
 - **Composting:** Biological treatment (anaerobic or aerobic) of biodegradable matter resulting in a recoverable product.
 - **Incineration:** Incineration with energy recovery is considered as a recovery operation whenever the conditions and energy efficiency thresholds which are provided in the 'Guidelines on the energy efficiency formula for incineration facilities' related to the Waste Framework Directive are met. Incineration without energy recovery refers to the thermal treatment of waste and is considered as a disposal operation.
8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B3/Environment_Energy_Transport_and_Agriculture_Statistics/Pages/Waste-Statistics.aspx

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=23>
9. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.

10. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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