

During 2017, municipal waste generation increased by 8.8 per cent when compared to the previous year.

## Municipal Waste: 2017

### Municipal waste generation

Administrative data provided by WasteServ Malta Ltd. and the Environment and Resources Authority show that, during 2017, municipal waste generation amounted to 293,557 tonnes, up by 23,720 tonnes over 2016. This increase was mainly driven by higher amounts of mixed municipal waste (10,930 tonnes) and bulky waste (10,160 tonnes). This was partly offset by a decrease in the generation of wood waste (2,680 tonnes) (Table 1 and Chart 1).

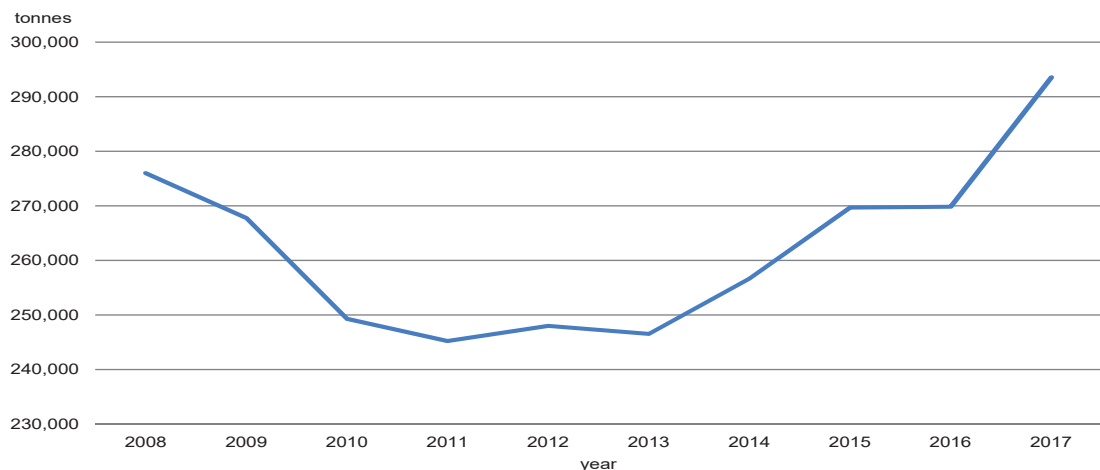
The data breakdown by waste origin shows a decrease of 3,283 tonnes or 18.0 per cent in the volume that was collected from the civic amenity sites. On the other hand, municipal waste collected by means of both the door-to-door grey/green bag as well as the glass collection scheme increased by 3,622 tonnes or 21.2 per cent to reach 20,735 tonnes. Waste collected through the black bag also advanced by 2,627 tonnes coming from local councils and by 8,303 tonnes arising from other sources. Also, during the same year, organic waste collection rose by 892 tonnes or 41.3 per cent primarily as a result of Gozo's inclusion in the pilot project for the collection of the same kind of waste in September 2016 (Table 2).

### Municipal waste treatment

During 2017, the total amount of municipal waste treatment increased by 11.5 per cent over 2016; reaching a total of 264,744 tonnes. The share of landfilling from the total municipal waste treated stood at 92.0 per cent. The total amount of landfilled digestate, refuse-derived fuel and rejects shows that 37.3 per cent of all landfilled municipal waste underwent a pre-treatment process prior to its final disposal (Table 3 and Chart 3).

Municipal waste recycling comprised the remaining 8.0 per cent of the total municipal waste treatment. When compared to a year earlier, municipal waste recycling advanced by 2,261 tonnes. Municipal waste recycled was mainly made up of paper and cardboard (36.3 per cent), metals (29.5 per cent) and plastic (11.2 per cent) (Table 3) ■

**Chart 1. Municipal waste generation**



**Table 1. Municipal waste generation by type**

	tonnes				
<b>Municipal waste type</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Paper and cardboard	2,560	6,405	6,830	6,467	6,260
Plastic	1,917	1,642	1,168	1,029	1,034
Metals	3,733	1,462	1,347	1,570	1,229
Glass	2,463	2,658	3,707	1,740	3,549
Wood	14,698	14,101	14,601	9,605	6,925
Waste electrical and electronic equipment <sup>(1)</sup>	1,210	1,252	1,176	1,804	1,289
Biodegradable garden and park waste	6,548	7,738	6,660	4,334	3,642
Mixed packaging	12,036	12,582	14,469	16,992	19,798
Mixed municipal waste	168,450	174,062	182,672	174,760	185,690
Street cleaning residues	3,607	3,039	3,649	4,962	5,452
Bulky waste	26,099	29,466	32,182	43,802	53,962
Biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste	2,216	1,370	734	2,182	3,112
Clothes/textiles	296	339	145	323	977
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	688	514	320	267	640
<b>Total</b>	<b>246,521</b>	<b>256,630</b>	<b>269,660</b>	<b>269,837</b>	<b>293,557</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes hazardous waste

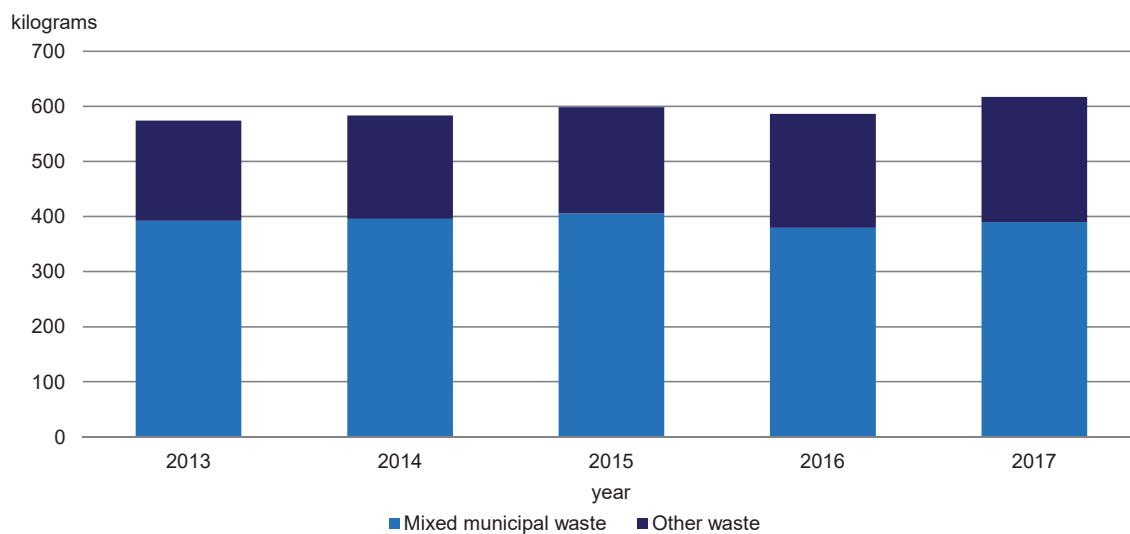
**Table 2. Municipal waste generation by origin**

	tonnes				
<b>Municipal waste origin</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Bring-in sites	4,043	3,740	2,652	3,486	3,729
Civic amenity sites <sup>(1)</sup>	13,050	14,370	16,994	18,236	14,953
Green/Grey bag and glass collection	11,729	12,891	14,926	17,113	20,735
Black bag collection - local councils	133,528	139,837	144,993	136,619	139,246
Black bag collection - other	34,922	34,224	37,679	38,141	46,444
Street cleaning	3,607	3,039	3,649	4,962	5,452
Organic waste collection	-	-	179	2,162	3,054
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	45,642	48,528	48,588	49,118	59,944
<b>Total</b>	<b>246,521</b>	<b>256,630</b>	<b>269,660</b>	<b>269,837</b>	<b>293,557</b>
Total population <sup>(2)</sup>	429,424	439,691	450,415	460,297	475,701
Municipal waste generation per capita - kilograms	574	584	599	586	617

<sup>(1)</sup> includes hazardous waste

<sup>(2)</sup> Source: World Population Day News Release 107/2018

**Chart 2. Municipal waste generated per capita**



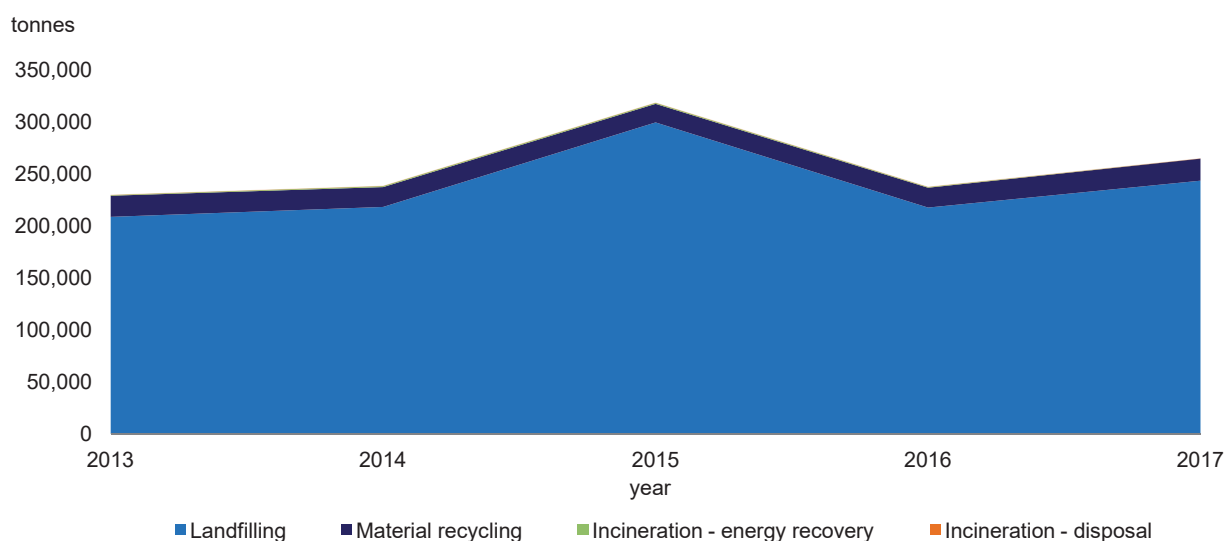
**Table 3. Municipal waste treatment**

	tonnes				
Waste treatment by waste type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Landfilling</b>	<b>208,673</b>	<b>218,314</b>	<b>299,641</b>	<b>217,860</b>	<b>243,563</b>
Wood	146	48	73,294 <sup>(2)</sup>	8,469	5,615
Digestate from anaerobic digestion	4,113	3,892	2,798	6,780	8,324
Refuse-derived fuel	188	312	-	-	8,453
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	48,246	44,290	38,891	69,840	74,187
Biodegradable garden and park waste	6,551	7,733	6,660	3,977	3,584
Mixed packaging	281	240	160	51	192
Mixed municipal waste	120,597	130,262	142,063	81,704	83,957
Street-cleaning residues	2,721	2,326	3,650	4,625	5,302
Bulky waste	25,830	29,211	32,108	42,014	53,719
Clothes/textiles	-	-	18	335	155
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	1	-	-	65	75
<b>Material recycling</b>	<b>20,407</b>	<b>19,261</b>	<b>17,947</b>	<b>18,856</b>	<b>21,117</b>
Paper and cardboard	10,754	10,236	10,345	10,555	7,660
Plastic	2,302	2,752	2,149	2,307	2,371
Metals	2,434	2,169	1,640	3,028	6,237
Glass	3,284	2,397	2,387	931	2,122
Waste electrical and electronic equipment <sup>(1)</sup>	1,180	1,359	1,205	1,741	1,295
Clothes/textiles	182	164	154	210	851
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	271	183	67	84	581
<b>Incineration - energy recovery</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>20</b>
Refuse-derived fuel	552	753	725	631	20
<b>Incineration - disposal</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>
Solvents, paints, inks, adhesives and resins <sup>(1)</sup>	44	53	39	28	44
Other	-	-	2	-	-
<b>Municipal waste treatment - Total</b>	<b>229,676</b>	<b>238,382</b>	<b>318,354</b>	<b>237,375</b>	<b>264,744</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> includes hazardous waste

<sup>(2)</sup> Wood that was landfilled in 2015 is made up of wood which was generated from 2010 to 2015 and was being held in storage.

**Chart 3. Municipal waste treatment**



## Methodological Notes

1. Data for this news release is sourced from WasteServ Malta Ltd. and the Environment and Resources Authority. Data for 2017 is to be considered as provisional.
2. Data presented in this news release is based on the methodology that is applied for the Municipal Waste Indicator which is submitted on an annual basis by NSO to Eurostat. The latest data transmission to Eurostat occurred in November 2018. This news release provides an updated version of this data.
3. Eurostat data on municipal waste generation and treatment, which is expressed in kilograms per capita, is based on data regarding the total population in Malta as at 1<sup>st</sup> January. In this news release the municipal waste generation per capita is calculated according to the total population as at 31<sup>st</sup> December.
4. Table 3 presents data for the four final treatment categories under which municipal waste that was treated from 2013 to 2017 can be classified. Data is inclusive of waste exports to overseas final treatment facilities occurring due to the limited treatment capacity in Malta that is available for hazardous waste and waste undergoing recycling and energy recovery operations.
5. With regards to pre-treatment facilities, data qualifies for inclusion in Table 2 depending on whether municipal waste was recorded as inputs into each facility. For example, 80 per cent of the waste inputs of sorting facility 'A' are from municipal waste. 50 per cent of its outputs go for recycling and the rest is landfilled. So it is assumed that even 80 per cent of the outputs are from municipal waste. 80 per cent of the outputs for recycling would then be reported under municipal waste recycled; and 80 per cent of the outputs for landfill would be reported under municipal waste landfilled.
6. The difference between municipal waste generation and municipal waste treatment mainly refers to the storage of the sorted municipal waste. Variations in weight also occurs as a result of the anaerobic digestion process.
7. Definitions:
  - **Municipal waste:** Waste that is generated from households as well as 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 2017, 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.
  - **Organic waste collection:** Door-to-door collection of organic waste from households on pre-determined weekdays. This collection started as a pilot project covering a limited number of localities in 2015.
  - **Landfilling:** Disposal of waste into or onto land, including specially engineered landfill.
  - **Recycling:** Any waste-recovery operations by which disposed materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes except for 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 both 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:  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=23>
9. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](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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