

Municipal Waste: 2024

NR 225/2025

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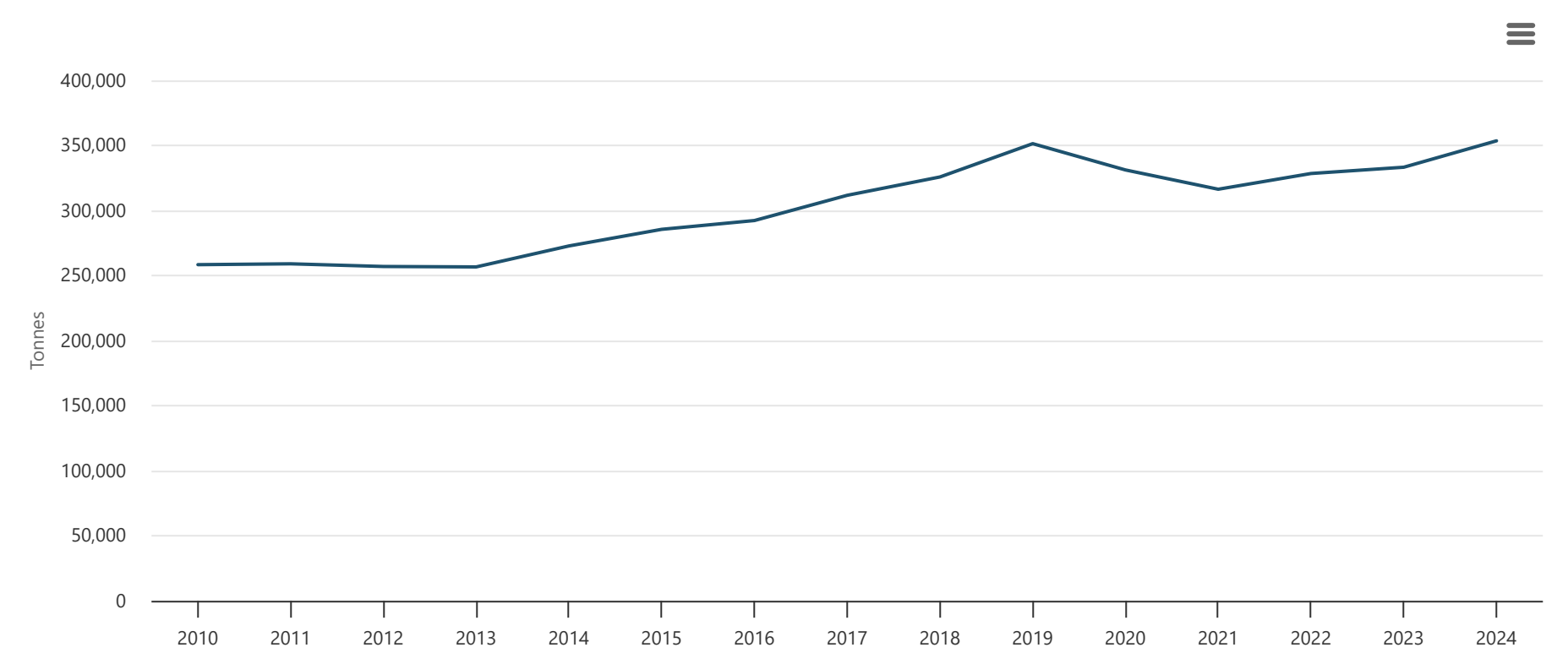
During 2024 municipal waste generation increased by 6.1 per cent over the previous year to a total of 353,525 tonnes.



Municipal waste generation

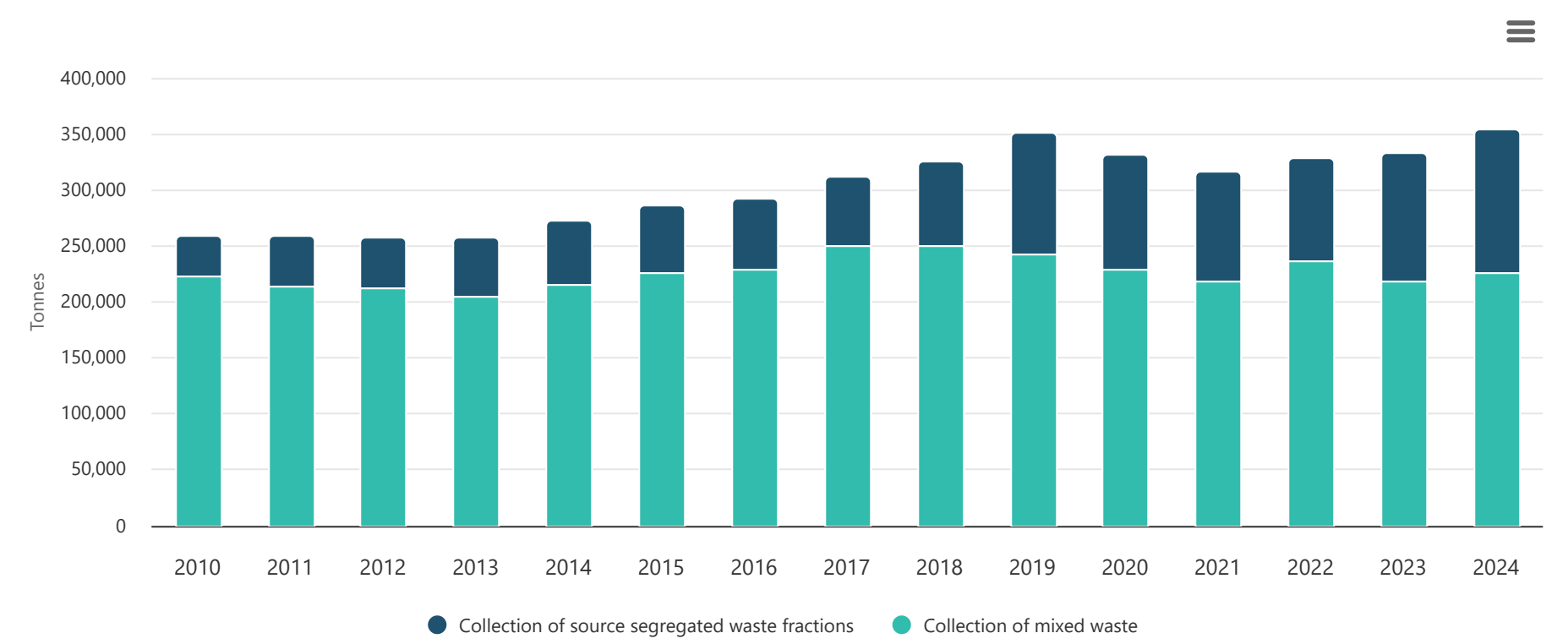
Generation of municipal waste during 2024 amounted to 353,525 tonnes, going up by 20,287 tonnes, or 6.1 per cent over 2023. The highest increases by waste type, in absolute terms, were recorded in bio-waste from gardens and parks (5,910 tonnes), bio-waste from kitchens and canteens (5,826 tonnes) and other waste (4,082 tonnes). On the other hand, decreases were registered for mixed municipal waste (2,642 tonnes), metals (1,293 tonnes), and glass (123 tonnes) (Table 1).

Chart 1. Municipal waste generation



Waste generation data by waste type presents information about the state of the waste at the point of collection. The proportion of source segregated waste collection can be determined from this data (see methodological note 4). The available data shows that the collection of source segregated waste fractions in 2024 amounted to 36.3 per cent of the municipal waste generation, up from the 34.8 per cent that was registered a year before (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Municipal waste collection by type

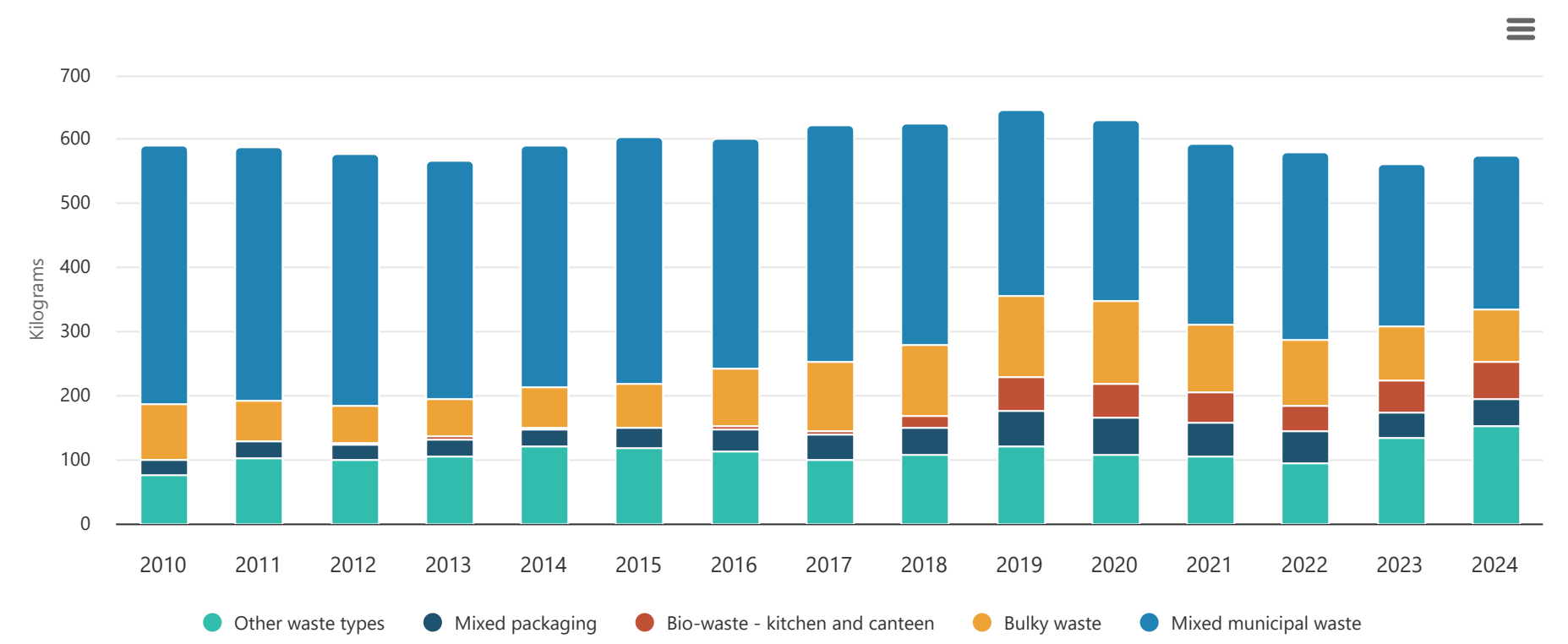


Note: Collection of source segregated waste fractions refers to a collection system where a waste stream is segregated by type and nature to facilitate a specific treatment. Source segregated wastes include single material collections or multiple materials which are collected together for recycling such as in the case of the green/grey bag.

Waste generation data by waste collection type shows that in 2024 the main increases were registered in the ‘Other’ category (15,076 tonnes), followed by street cleaning (3,432 tonnes) and the organic waste collection (2,444 tonnes). These increases were offset by reductions recorded in the categories for the black bag from businesses and institutions (2,287 tonnes), civic amenity sites (384 tonnes), and the black bag from the door-to-door collection by local councils (356 tonnes) (Table 2).

Indicators for the municipal waste generation per capita based on the mid-year resident population show that each person generated 621 kilograms of waste in 2024, up by 3.1 per cent over the previous year. Moreover, when factoring in the net tourist daily population in addition to the mid-year resident population, the per capita municipal waste generation for 2024 amounted to 574 kilograms, increasing by 2.1 per cent over 2023 (Table 3).

Chart 3. Municipal waste generation per capita (including net tourist daily population) by waste type



Municipal waste treatment

The total amount of treated municipal waste in 2024 increased by 9,635 tonnes, or 3.1 per cent, over that recorded in 2023, amounting to 322,119 tonnes. In 2024, 79.2 per cent of treated municipal waste was landfilled, up from the share of 78.6 per cent recorded a year before. In absolute terms, the landfilling of municipal waste increased by 9,510 tonnes (3.9 per cent), mainly on account of higher amounts of mixed municipal waste (16,381 tonnes), wood (8,764 tonnes) and garden and park bio-waste (6,514 tonnes). These were mainly offset by decreases in the rejects from the mechanical treatment of waste (24,371 tonnes) and bulky waste (764 tonnes) (Table 4).

Municipal waste that was recycled in 2024 increased by 1,723 tonnes, or 3.1 per cent, to a total of 58,156 tonnes. The most recycled material in 2024 was paper and cardboard with a share of 60.0 per cent from the total recycled municipal waste. Increases in recycling were registered for kitchen and canteen bio-waste (25.0 per cent), paper and cardboard (24.5 per cent) and plastic (11.5 per cent). On the other hand, decreases were recorded for clothes and textiles (46.6 per cent), glass (36.0 per cent), metals (31.4 per cent), and waste electrical and electronic equipment (1.4 per cent) (Table 4).

In 2024, municipal waste that underwent treatment by energy recovery decreased by 17.0 per cent, reaching 7,530 tonnes. Furthermore, preparing for re-use accounted for 1,282 tonnes, decreasing by 1.6 per cent over 2023 (Table 4).

Chart 4. Municipal waste treatment by treatment category

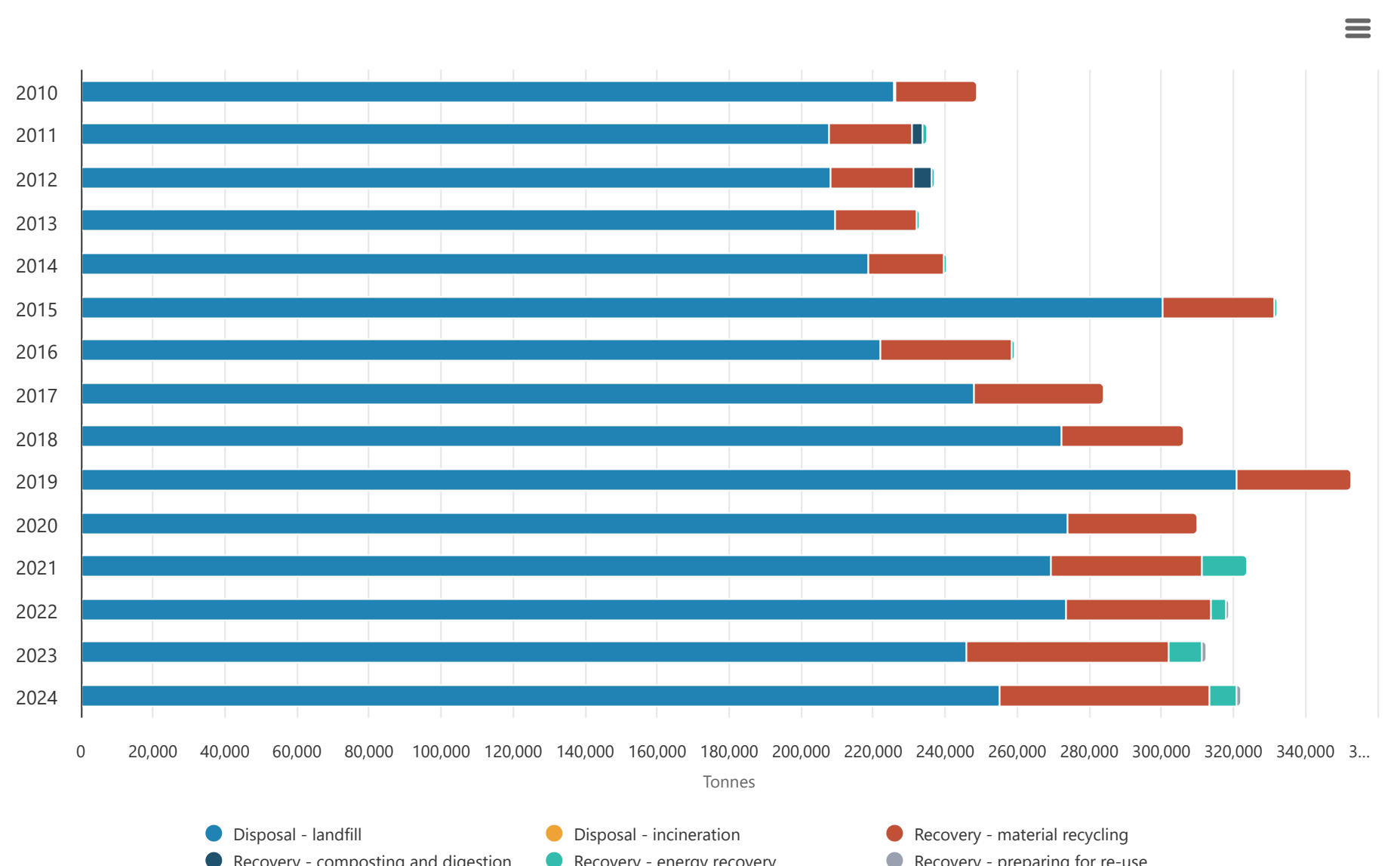


Table 1. Municipal waste generation by year and waste type

	tonnes														
Municipal waste type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ¹	2024
Paper and cardboard	9,632	14,321	10,608	8,485	16,831	19,173	18,927	17,699	20,273	20,920	19,536	19,196	16,309	21,256	23,782
Plastic	3,342	3,590	2,887	3,414	4,345	3,102	4,425	3,830	2,525	3,737	2,726	2,752	2,834	7,314	7,828
Metals	1,544	4,117	1,660	4,403	1,684	1,747	2,000	1,655	1,489	1,493	2,061	1,875	1,712	4,599	3,306
Glass	1,777	299	3,072	3,942	4,940	4,447	7,210	4,850	8,008	8,709	7,096	7,412	8,316	13,842	13,719
Wood	7,612	10,813	12,106	14,698	14,101	14,601	9,605	6,902	8,575	8,985	8,884	9,079	7,893	10,864	13,989
Waste electrical and electronic equipment ²	1,534	1,566	1,507	1,704	1,673	1,787	2,537	3,716	3,939	3,907	3,052	3,366	2,875	3,040	3,088
Mixed packaging	9,882	10,579	10,868	12,036	12,582	14,469	16,992	19,156	21,750	31,152	29,367	28,256	27,774	22,996	24,893
Mixed municipal waste	176,713	174,108	174,988	168,450	174,062	182,672	174,760	184,952	179,847	158,686	149,219	151,135	166,421	150,640	147,998
Bulky waste	38,826	28,755	25,422	26,099	29,466	32,182	43,802	53,962	58,909	68,084	68,067	56,528	58,095	49,847	50,206
Bio-waste - garden and park	4,407	6,747	7,472	6,548	7,738	6,660	4,334	5,002	4,228	5,562	4,737	4,175	4,692	9,331	15,241
Bio-waste - kitchen and canteen	-	-	1,934	2,362	1,493	734	2,188	3,625	8,664	28,892	27,859	24,556	22,589	30,470	36,296
Clothes and textiles	24	114	132	296	339	145	323	977	1,194	1,813	1,475	1,835	1,172	1,425	1,482
Other ²	3,051	3,989	4,286	4,179	3,479	3,779	5,163	5,332	6,352	9,413	7,063	6,157	7,728	7,614	11,696
Total	258,344	258,999	256,942	256,616	272,732	285,499	292,268	311,659	325,751	351,353	331,142	316,324	328,410	333,238	353,525

¹ Revised (see methodological note 3).

² Includes hazardous waste.

Notes:

1. 2019 was the first full calendar year during which nationwide collection of kitchen and canteen bio-waste took place.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Municipal waste generation by year and waste collection type

															tonnes
Municipal waste collection type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ¹	2024
Bring-in sites	4,240	4,955	3,447	4,043	3,740	2,652	3,486	3,852	4,218	4,093	3,814	3,605	3,340	3,067	3,049
Beverage Container Refund Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	625	9,909	10,796
Civic amenity sites ²	11,823	12,396	12,338	13,050	14,370	16,994	18,236	16,559	19,415	23,283	22,574	22,846	20,846	22,460	22,076
Green/Grey bag collection	-	10,111	10,720	11,729	12,403	14,366	16,620	19,183	22,925	30,622	29,074	28,051	27,629	22,545	23,379
Glass collection	-	-	-	-	488	560	493	1,553	1,962	3,295	3,538	3,252	3,281	3,428	3,726
Black bag - local councils	133,484	132,349	132,075	133,528	139,837	144,993	136,619	139,246	140,740	115,274	118,329	109,589	120,248	91,993	91,637
Black bag - from businesses and institutions	43,228	41,758	42,914	34,922	34,224	37,679	38,141	45,707	39,107	43,411	30,890	41,546	46,173	58,647	56,360
Street cleaning	2,910	3,215	3,659	3,607	3,039	3,649	4,962	5,886	6,699	9,265	6,904	5,951	7,097	7,444	10,876
Organic waste collection	-	-	-	-	-	179	2,162	3,054	7,381	27,356	26,600	23,288	20,610	27,078	29,522
Bulky waste - from households, businesses and institutions	38,826	28,755	25,422	26,099	29,466	32,182	43,802	53,962	58,909	68,084	68,067	56,528	58,095	49,847	50,206
Other ²	23,833	25,459	26,367	29,638	35,163	32,244	27,746	22,659	24,395	26,668	21,351	21,669	20,465	36,821	51,896
Total	258,344	258,999	256,942	256,616	272,732	285,499	292,268	311,659	325,751	351,353	331,142	316,324	328,410	333,238	353,525

¹ Revised (see methodological note 3).

² Includes hazardous waste.

Notes:

1. 2019 was the first full calendar year during which nationwide collection of organic waste took place.
2. Beverage Container Refund Scheme (BCRS) was launched on 14 November 2022.
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Municipal waste generation per capita by year and indicator

															kilograms
Indicator	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Municipal waste generation per capita ¹	623	622	612	604	629	643	644	668	674	698	643	611	618	603	621
Municipal waste generation per capita (including net tourist daily population) ¹	589	588	577	567	591	603	602	622	624	646	631	593	581	562	574

¹ See methodological notes 5 and 7 for information about the computation of these indicators.

Note: All figures in this table have been revised (see methodological note 6).

Table 4. Municipal waste treatment by year, treatment category and waste type

	tonnes														
Waste treatment by waste type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ¹	2024
Disposal - landfill	225,869	207,660	208,240	209,496	218,632	300,242	221,813	248,006	272,032	320,631	273,729	269,167	273,370	245,597	255,107
Paper and cardboard	-	-	-	-	-	35	32	11	1	1	3	-	5	2	1
Plastic	10	29	-	-	-	-	5	49	15	15	1	2	8	9	45
Metals	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	15	1	-	1	9	-	-	-
Glass	-	-	-	-	-	37	29	70	248	287	15	16	41	-	-
Wood	-	-	84	146	48	73,324	8,487	5,593	8,575	8,832	8,884	4,046	300	359	9,123
Waste electrical and electronic equipment	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed packaging	111	16	152	281	240	160	51	192	69	18	22	1	5	59	2
Mixed municipal waste	169,054	130,926	126,393	120,597	130,262	142,063	81,704	83,957	74,038	92,300	139,812	118,740	121,418	118,554	134,935
Bulky waste	37,676	25,537	24,172	25,830	29,211	32,108	42,014	53,727	58,732	68,084	68,060	57,866	59,180	50,518	49,753
Bio-waste - garden and park	6,869	6,747	7,472	6,551	7,733	6,660	3,977	3,584	4,178	5,007	4,582	4,173	4,617	8,501	15,015
Bio-waste - kitchen and canteen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	-	115	8	29	77	-	7
Clothes and textiles	-	-	-	-	-	18	316	150	32	-	18	14	1	61	6
Street cleaning residues	2,910	2,492	2,763	2,721	2,326	3,650	4,625	5,302	6,119	8,537	6,450	5,552	6,574	6,784	9,657
Digestate from anaerobic digestion	-	-	-	4,113	3,892	2,798	7,118	9,516	9,931	11,402	3,898	3,001	3,655	2,527	2,711
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	9,236	41,902	47,204	49,257	44,919	39,389	73,450	85,774	110,089	126,206	41,975	75,691	77,486	58,224	33,852
Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	28	-	27	2	-	-
Disposal - incineration	61	119	19	44	54	41	28	20	16	17	75	125	9	23	5
Paper and cardboard	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	61	16	4	6	0
Plastic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Wood	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bio-waste - kitchen and canteen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	93	-	-	-
Clothes and textiles	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	-	0
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solvents, paints, inks, adhesives and resins ²	59	76	19	44	53	39	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	17	16	13	9	16	5	17	5
Recovery - material recycling	22,698	22,865	22,769	22,632	20,874	31,064	36,696	35,826	34,099	31,997	36,055	41,894	40,272	56,432	58,156
Paper and cardboard	11,243	11,062	12,737	11,296	10,820	21,780	25,109	21,109	21,055	19,714	18,118	21,868	24,112	28,028	34,884
Plastic	3,801	2,801	3,350	2,434	2,821	3,709	3,393	2,994	2,125	3,069	2,576	3,809	2,731	6,754	7,533
Metals	3,400	3,659	2,986	2,683	2,237	1,633	3,028	5,076	2,825	2,000	2,401	3,416	1,991	5,279	3,620
Glass	2,110	3,412	2,188	4,553	3,273	2,651	3,297	3,878	5,231	3,452	9,254	8,542	7,779	12,912	8,258
Wood	-	-	26	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste electrical and electronic equipment ²	1,306	1,672	1,217	1,180	1,359	1,113	1,656	1,413	1,443	2,170	1,570	1,648	2,021	1,628	1,605
Mixed packaging	324	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulky waste	352	7	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bio-waste - kitchen and canteen	-	-	-	112	92	23	4	505	1,236	1,554	1,200	1,157	1,504	1,755	2,193
Clothes and textiles	24	156	161	182	164	154	210	851	86	37	936	1,455	82	77	41
Solvents, paints, inks, adhesives and resins ²	-	-	13	17	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	138	98	77	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	21
Recovery - composting and digestion	-	2,944	5,119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	39
Digestate from anaerobic digestion	-	2,944	5,119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Compost from garden and park bio-waste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	39
Recovery - energy recovery	-	1,188	1,029	645	837	800	806	-	-	-	-	12,742	4,099	9,074	7,530
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	-	1,188	1,029	645	837	800	806	-	-	-	-	12,742	4,099	9,074	7,506
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Recovery - preparing for re-use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,031	1,303	1,282
Clothes and textiles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,031	1,303	1,282
Municipal waste treatment - Total	248,628	234,776	237,177	232,817	240,397	332,146	259,342	283,852	306,147	352,645	309,859	323,929	318,781	312,484	322,119

¹ Revised (see methodological note 3).² Includes hazardous waste.

Notes:

1. Wood that was landfilled in 2015 is made up of wood which was generated from 2010 to 2015 that was being held in storage.

2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. Data for this news release is sourced from WasteServ Malta Ltd., the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and Circular Economy Malta. Data for 2024 should be considered as provisional.
2. Data presented in this news release is based on the methodology that is applied for the municipal waste data reporting which the NSO submits annually to Eurostat. This methodology follows the provisions as laid down in the document: [“Guidance for the compilation and reporting of data on municipal waste according to Commission Implementing Decisions 2019/1004/EC and 2019/1885/EC, and the Joint Questionnaire of Eurostat and OECD’ version of 06/10/2023’](#).
3. Revisions on 2023 data have been carried out following data updates in the National Waste Inventory that is sourced from ERA.
4. Source segregated waste collection is determined from the data that is presented in Table 1 and is considered to comprise the following waste types: Paper and cardboard, Plastics, Metals, Glass, Wood, Waste electrical and electronic equipment, Mixed packaging, Bio-waste – kitchen and canteen and Clothes and textiles.
5. Municipal waste generation which is expressed in kilograms per capita, is worked out by dividing the municipal waste generation (in kilograms) by the mid-year resident population. The mid-year resident population is calculated by averaging start-of-the-year and end-year usual resident population estimates. It should be noted that Eurostat uses population data as on 1 January to calculate the average population and so the per capita figures in this release are not directly comparable to those of Eurostat.
6. Municipal waste generation per capita figures have been revised to align population figures with those published by NSO in the [Tourism Intensity Statistical Insight](#), released on the 14 April 2025.
7. Municipal waste generation per capita (including net tourist daily population) is a national indicator that has been included in this news release since all the waste that is generated by tourists forms part of municipal waste. It is calculated by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Municipal waste generation (kg)}}{\text{mid-year resident population} + \text{inbound tourist daily population} - \text{outbound tourist daily population}}$$

The inbound tourist daily population is calculated by dividing the total nights spent in Malta by tourists by the number of nights in the year. The outbound tourist daily population is calculated by dividing the total nights spent by Maltese residents abroad by the number of nights in the year.

Effective population figures from 2010 to 2015 are presented in the table below. [Figures for 2016 to 2023 can be accessed from here.](#) [Figures for 2024 can be accessed from here.](#)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mid-year resident population	414,562	416,318	419,746	425,171	433,451	443,764
Tourist daily population	24,106	24,458	25,443	27,454	28,331	29,826

8. Table 4 presents data for the six final treatment categories under which municipal waste treatment in Malta can be classified. Data is inclusive of waste exports to overseas final treatment facilities occurring due to the limited waste treatment capacity in Malta.
9. The difference between municipal waste generation and municipal waste treatment occurs mainly as a result of moisture gains and losses in organic waste, variations in stocks of waste that are held in storage prior to the final treatment operation and waste that is exported for pre-treatment operations (consequently the final treatment operation is not specified).
10. 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 and recyclable waste. In 2024 there were six sites operated by WasteServ Malta Ltd., five in Malta and one in Gozo.
 - **Green/Grey bag collection:** Door-to-door collection of mixed paper, metals and plastics from households. This service commenced in 2011. As of 2023 this collection takes place every Thursday.
 - **Glass collection:** Door-to-door collection of glass from households. This service commenced in 2014. As of 2023 this collection takes place every first and third Fridays of the month.
 - **Black bag collection:** Door-to-door collection of mixed waste primarily from households but also including waste from businesses and institutions. This bag should be used only for the disposal of residual waste which cannot be composted or recycled. As of 2023 this collection takes place every Tuesday and Saturday.
 - **Organic waste collection:** Door-to-door collection of organic waste from households. This collection started as a pilot project covering a limited number of localities in 2015 and was extended nationally from the 31st October 2018 onwards. As of 2023 this collection takes place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
 - **Disposal – landfill:** Disposal of waste into or onto land, including specially engineered landfill, covered by Disposal codes D1, D5 and D12.
 - **Disposal – incineration:** Incineration without energy recovery refers to the thermal treatment of waste and is considered as a disposal operation classified under code D10.
 - **Recovery – material 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. These recovery operations are classified under codes R2 to R9 and R11.
 - **Recovery – energy recovery:** 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. This treatment operation is classified under code R1.
 - **Recovery – preparing for re-use:** Operations that include checking, cleaning or repairing by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.

11. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

[Statistical concepts](#)
[Metadata](#)
[Classifications \(Recovery and Disposal operations\)](#)

12. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).
13. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).
14. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).