

News Release



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Environment

Solid Waste Management in Malta: 2003-2006

The tables presented in this news release describe solid waste management in Malta from 2000 to 2006. During this period the waste amounts managed show a fluctuating trend, with the highest amount being recorded in 2004, when 2,874,853.56 tonnes of waste were sent to the treatment and disposal sites.

The majority of the waste disposed is mostly non-hazardous mineral waste and debris material which is mainly composed of construction and demolition waste. This waste stream constitutes an average 84.54% of all waste managed in Malta. Table 1 and Chart 1 indicate that for the period 2003 to 2006, 68 per cent of the land filling of inert waste material was controlled by WasteServ Malta Ltd. The remaining 32 per cent was managed by the private sector.

Till April 2003, all solid waste generated was disposed in the public landfills at Maghtab in Malta and il-Qortin in Gozo. However due to a change in waste disposal policy, the greater part of this waste began to be disposed in disused quarry sites from May 2003 onwards. Table 2 shows the details of the waste streams which were received at the public landfills. The non-hazardous mineral waste disposed in disused quarries follows a fluctuating trend, with the highest amount recorded in 2004, when over 2.5 million tonnes of mineral waste was disposed of in this manner.

The change in waste disposal policy in 2003 brought about a decrease in the amount of waste being disposed in public landfills. Throughout the period under review, the highest amount of waste recorded was in 2002, when 1,591,669.42 tonnes of waste were landfilled. By 2006 the corresponding amount had gone down to 247,255.58 tonnes, a decrease of 84.47 per cent over the initial amount. Throughout the period under review the composition of landfilled waste changed as well. In 2000, 84.27 per cent of all waste landfilled was composed of debris material. By 2006 the corresponding figure had gone down to 1.82 per cent, and the dominant waste stream became municipal solid waste with a share of 67.54 per cent of the total amount of waste landfilled.

The other aspect of waste management in Malta is waste treatment, which is carried out at Sant'Antnin Waste Treatment plant. On average the amount of waste treated in the period under review constituted just 1.74 per cent of all waste managed in Malta.

Leaving out the mineral waste and debris material from the total amount of waste managed in Malta, the treated waste streams account for 11.61 per cent of the waste managed in the country. The amount of waste treated also shows a fluctuating trend; however from 2002 onwards a steady increase in the amount of waste treated was recorded. In 2002 the amount of treated waste was just 5.88 per cent of the total amount of waste managed excluding debris material and mineral waste. By 2006 the corresponding figure had risen to 16.7 per cent. Chart 3 shows that 87 per cent of the treated waste stream at Sant Antnin comes from the mixed municipal waste.

Table 4 and chart 4 of this release give an insight on the separate collection of various waste streams. In Malta, separate collection began to gain momentum with the introduction of bring-in sites in July 2003. The amount of waste collected from bring-in sites has been on the rise ever since the introduction so that from 2004 to 2006 the amount of waste collected in this manner increased by 2.34 times ■

Theme:
Environment

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Table 1. Non-hazardous mineral waste disposed in disused quarry sites

tonnes			
Year	Quarry Sites Controlled by WasteServ Malta Ltd.	Privately Managed Quarry Sites	Total Amount of Waste Disposed
2003	761,882.56	0.00	761,882.56
2004	2,177,861.23	372,237.50	2,550,098.73
2005	1,185,174.43	776,874.50	1,962,048.93
2006	865,713.21	1,191,579.50	2,057,292.71

Source: WasteServ Malta Ltd.; MEPA

Note: Figures are subject to revision

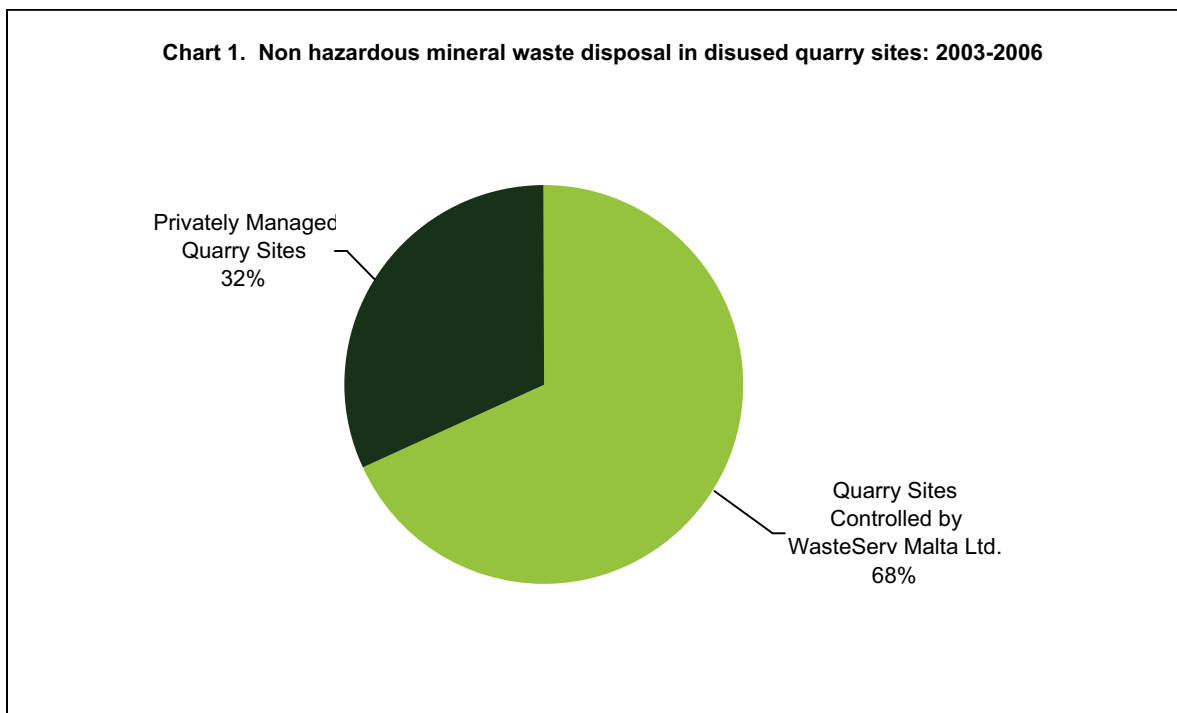


Table 2. Waste disposed in public landfills

Waste Streams	tonnes						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Municipal Solid Waste	140,157.37	149,269.01	163,277.69	163,130.58	164,311.67	165,258.99	167,001.98
Debris Material	1,252,159.27	989,700.06	1,342,826.48	577,063.45	38,092.24	11,327.53	4,502.93
Commercial/Industrial	26,766.46	25,803.65	25,596.91	28,515.90	24,623.83	18,505.61	17,037.03
Mixed Trade Municipal	51,353.94	48,310.28	43,994.49	56,590.88	53,234.63	48,670.47	51,198.06
Mixed Waste	14,965.54	19,915.50	15,969.23	13,755.83	9,423.20	8,815.61	7,515.58
Special Waste	418.76	1.86	4.62	757.36	76.74	35.54	0.00
Total	1,485,821.33	1,233,000.36	1,591,669.42	839,814.00	289,762.31	252,613.75	247,255.58

Source: WasteServ Malta Ltd.

Note: Figures are subject to revision

Chart 2. Waste (except debris material) disposed in public landfills: 2000-2006

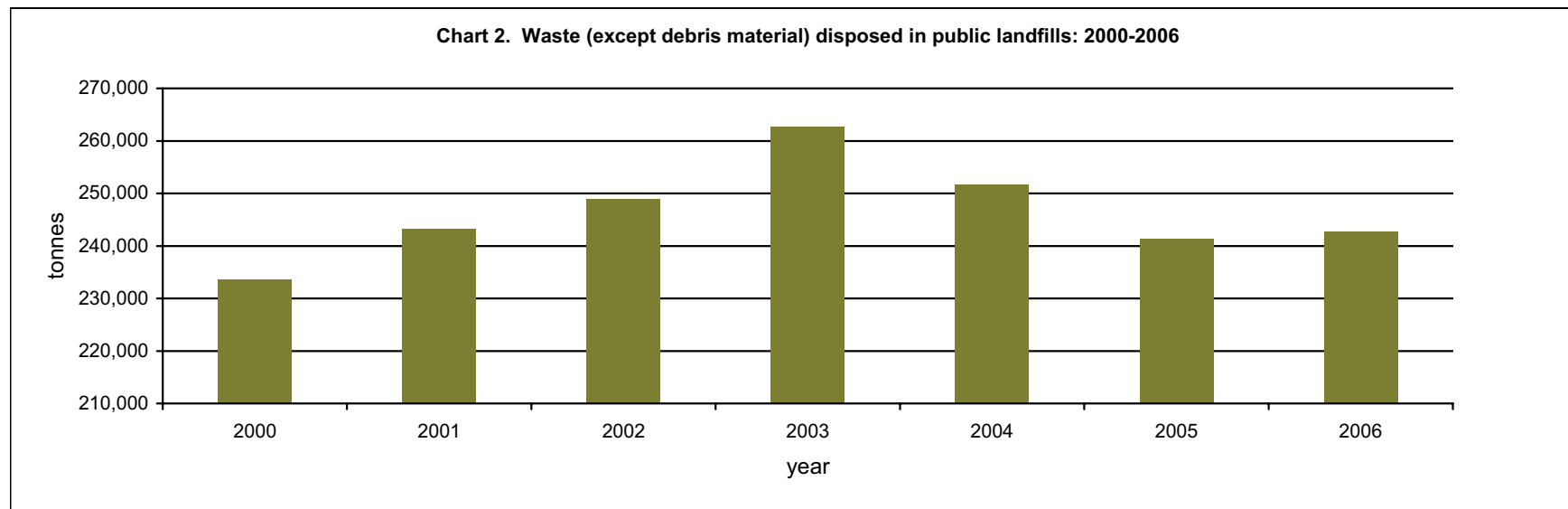


Table 3. Waste treated at Sant' Antnin Waste Treatment Plant

										tonnes
Year	Mixed Municipal Waste	Green Waste	Paper and Cardboard	Plastics	Tyres	Metal	Wooden Pallets	Elect. Equip.	Glass	Total Waste
2000	29,301.42	1,238.92	768.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.14	31,381.13
2001	30,712.88	554.58	737.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.74	32,103.38
2002	15,054.53	21.54	470.95	3.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20	15,556.58
2003	23,486.73	90.77	537.54	50.10	188.09	22.00	0.00	0.00	59.10	24,434.33
2004	29,356.77	1,535.03	1,921.30	181.38	962.26	116.24	521.37	79.74	318.43	34,992.52
2005	32,088.58	3,379.80	2,747.39	289.95	841.29	146.35	433.94	101.39	717.57	40,746.26
2006	38,490.10	4,346.81	2,913.05	433.00	0.00	213.70	677.90	217.92	1,372.02	48,664.50

Source: WasteServ Malta Ltd.
 Note: Figures are subject to revision

Chart 3. Composition of waste treated in Sant' Antnin Waste Treatment Plant: 2000-2006

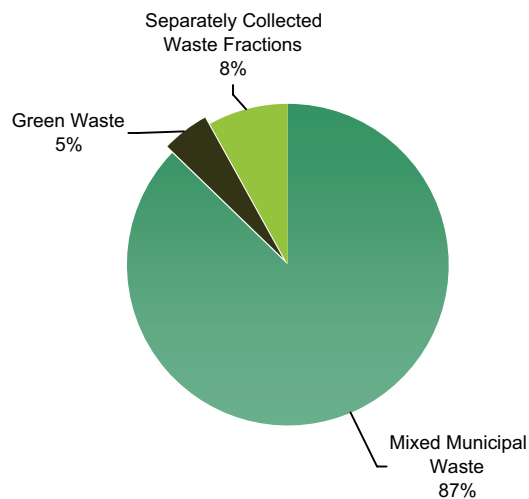


Table 4. Separate collection of waste materials

		tonnes						
	Material	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bring-in sites	Paper	0	0	0	82.64	476.41	892.04	1,084.76
	Plastic	0	0	0	25.76	163.95	266.14	352.39
	Cans	0	0	0	15.76	81.20	135.48	185.34
	Glass	0	0	0	33.72	241.02	494.77	632.75
Other	Bateries	10.47	7.74	13.62	9.18	11.99	12.04	15.96
	Tyres	0	0	0	188.09	962.26	1,341.96	1,424.48

Source: WasteServ Malta Ltd.
 Note: Figures are subject to revision

