

During 2018, municipal waste generation increased by 5.0 per cent when compared to the previous year.

## Municipal Waste: 2018

### Municipal waste generation

By the end of 2018, municipal waste generation reached 310,041 tonnes; up by 14,711 tonnes or 5.0 per cent over 2017. This increase was mainly driven by higher volumes of bulky waste amounting to 5,189 tonnes; followed by biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste at 4,375 tonnes and mixed packaging at 2,668 tonnes. These increases were partly offset by a decrease in the generation of mixed municipal waste of 2,343 tonnes (Table 1, Chart 1).

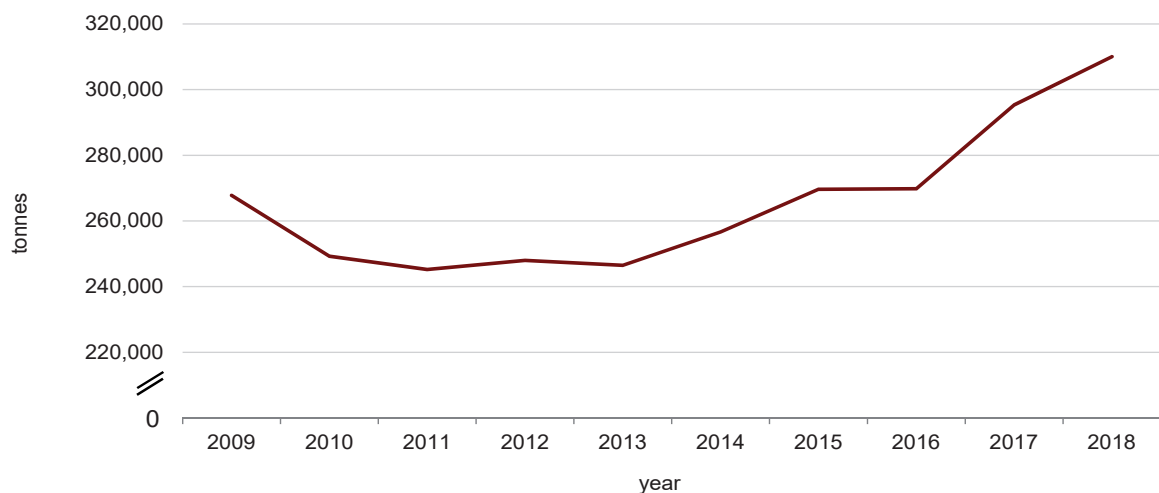
Data comprising the origins of municipal waste generation indicates that the major increase was registered in the organic waste collection; amounting to 141.7 per cent or 4,327 tonnes over 2017. This development resulted from the nationwide rollout initiated at the end of October 2018 of the organic waste collection from households. Another notable increase of 4,152 tonnes was also recorded in the grey/green bag and glass collection. On the other hand, the black bag collection of waste that is not in the remit of local councils dropped by 3,836 tonnes (Table 2).

### Municipal waste treatment

During 2018, the total amount of municipal waste treatment increased by 22,474 tonnes or 8.5 per cent over 2017; reaching a total of 286,750 tonnes. The share of landfilling from the total municipal waste treated stood at 92.9 per cent; up from the 92.2 per cent level recorded a year before. The combined amount of digestate, refuse-derived fuel and rejects that originated as secondary waste from pre-treatment operations amounted to 42.4 per cent of all landfilled municipal waste in 2018 (Table 3, Chart 3).

When compared to 2017, municipal waste recycling dropped by 0.7 percentage points to 7.1 per cent of the total municipal waste treatment. Municipal waste recycling in 2018 was mainly made up of paper and cardboard (35.1 per cent), metals (22.3 per cent) and glass (18.1 per cent) (Table 3) ■

**Chart 1. Municipal waste generation**



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

	tonnes				
Municipal waste type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Paper and cardboard	6,405	7,050	6,467	6,148	7,013
Plastic	1,642	1,168	1,029	1,033	1,012
Metals	1,462	1,347	1,570	1,259	1,437
Glass	2,658	3,707	1,740	3,876	4,979
Wood	14,101	14,601	9,605	7,197	8,534
Waste electrical and electronic equipment <sup>1</sup>	1,252	1,176	1,804	2,282	2,102
Biodegradable garden and park waste	7,738	6,660	4,334	4,134	4,234
Mixed packaging	12,582	14,469	16,992	19,984	22,652
Mixed municipal waste	174,062	182,672	174,760	185,488	183,145
Street cleaning residues	3,039	3,649	4,962	5,886	6,247
Bulky waste	29,466	32,182	43,802	53,356	58,545
Biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste	1,370	734	2,182	3,085	7,460
Clothes/textiles	339	145	323	977	1,111
Other <sup>1</sup>	514	100	267	625	1,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>256,630</b>	<b>269,660</b>	<b>269,837</b>	<b>295,330</b>	<b>310,041</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes hazardous waste

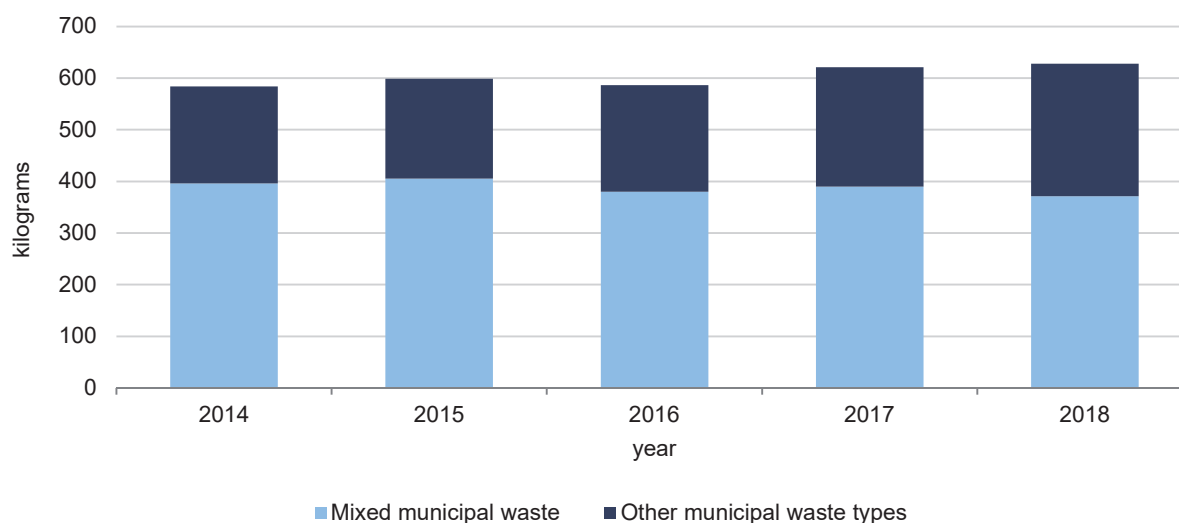
**Table 2. Municipal waste generation by origin**

	tonnes				
Municipal waste origin	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bring-in sites	3,740	2,652	3,486	3,852	4,218
Civic amenity sites <sup>1</sup>	14,370	16,994	18,236	16,559	19,405
Green/Grey bag and glass collection	12,891	14,926	17,113	20,735	24,887
Black bag collection - local councils	139,837	144,993	136,619	139,246	140,740
Black bag collection - other	34,224	37,679	38,141	46,242	42,406
Street cleaning	3,039	3,649	4,962	5,886	6,247
Organic waste collection	-	179	2,162	3,054	7,381
Other <sup>1</sup>	48,528	48,588	49,118	59,756	64,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>256,630</b>	<b>269,660</b>	<b>269,837</b>	<b>295,330</b>	<b>310,041</b>
Total population <sup>2</sup>	439,691	450,415	460,297	475,701	493,559
Municipal waste generation per capita - kilograms	584	599	586	621	628

<sup>1</sup> Includes hazardous waste

<sup>2</sup> Source: World population day NSO news release 108/2019

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



**Table 3. Municipal waste treatment**

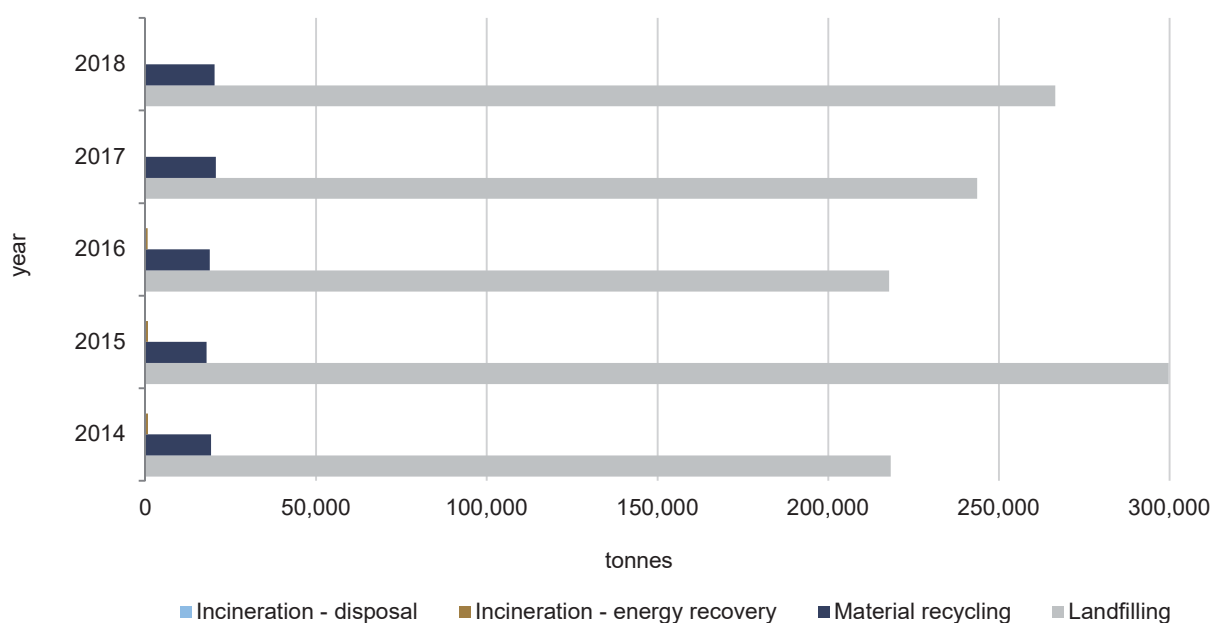
	tonnes				
Waste treatment by waste type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Landfilling</b>	<b>218,314</b>	<b>299,641</b>	<b>217,860</b>	<b>243,563</b>	<b>266,447</b>
Wood	48	73,294 <sup>2</sup>	8,534	5,615	8,575
Digestate from anaerobic digestion	3,892	2,798	6,780	8,324	8,586
Refuse-derived fuel	312	-	-	8,453	21,805
Rejects from mechanical treatment of waste	44,290	38,891	69,840	74,187	82,696
Biodegradable garden and park waste	7,733	6,660	3,977	3,584	4,178
Mixed packaging	240	160	51	192	69
Mixed municipal waste	130,262	142,063	81,704	83,957	74,038
Street-cleaning residues	2,326	3,650	4,625	5,302	6,119
Bulky waste	29,211	32,108	42,014	53,719	58,726
Clothes/textiles	-	18	335	155	39
Other <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	75	1,616 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Material recycling</b>	<b>19,278</b>	<b>17,947</b>	<b>18,856</b>	<b>20,649</b>	<b>20,285</b>
Paper and cardboard	10,236	10,345	10,555	7,660	7,112
Plastic	2,752	2,149	2,307	1,886	1,563
Metals	2,169	1,640	3,028	6,254	4,517
Glass	2,397	2,387	931	2,122	3,666
Waste electrical and electronic equipment <sup>1</sup>	1,359	1,205	1,741	1,295	1,881
Clothes/textiles	164	154	210	851	33
Other <sup>1</sup>	201	67	84	581	1,513
<b>Incineration - energy recovery</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>
Refuse-derived fuel	753	725	631	20	0
<b>Incineration - disposal</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>18</b>
Solvents, paints, inks, adhesives and resins <sup>1</sup>	53	39	28	27	2
Other	0	2	-	17	16
<b>Municipal waste treatment - Total</b>	<b>238,399</b>	<b>318,354</b>	<b>237,375</b>	<b>264,276</b>	<b>286,750</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.

<sup>3</sup> Includes hazardous burnt refuse derived fuel that was exported for disposal.

**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 2018 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 is submitted on an annual basis by NSO to Eurostat. The data in this news release is in line with the 2019 data transmission to Eurostat.
3. Eurostat data on municipal waste generation and treatment which is expressed in kilograms per capita, is based on data regarding the total population 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 2014 to 2018 can be classified. Data is inclusive of waste exports to overseas final treatment facilities, occurring due to the limited waste treatment capacity in Malta for hazardous waste and waste undergoing recycling and energy recovery operations.
5. With regard to pre-treatment facilities, data from the output of these facilities is included in Table 3, depending on the origins of the waste. For example, suppose that 80 per cent of the waste input into sorting facilities is from municipal waste. Assume also that 50 per cent of the sorted output goes for recycling, while the rest is landfilled. Thus, in such a scenario, it would be calculated that 80 per cent of the facility's output is coming from municipal waste. Finally, 80 per cent of the output for recycling would be reported under municipal waste recycled, while 80 per cent of the output 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 occur 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 local councils 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 2018 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 waste primarily from households but also including waste from businesses and institutions on pre-determined weekdays. As from the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 households are expected to refrain from disposing of organic waste in this bag.
  - **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 and was extended nationally from the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 onwards.
  - **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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