



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate E: Sectoral and regional statistics
E-2: Environmental Statistics and Accounts; Sustainable Development

Country-specific notes on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

Revision January 2020¹

General notes:

- (1) This paper provides additional information on specific aspects such as methodology of data collection and related changes in the methodology.
- (2) Compliance or non-compliance with targets of the WEEE Directive is not addressed in this document. For such aspects please refer to Eurostat's Statistics Explained article *Waste statistics - electrical and electronic equipment*.
- (3) Failure in submission by a Member State of all or some data (missing obligatory cells) is not addressed in this document.
- (4) The amount of WEEE collected from sources other than from private households is, for most Member States, far below the WEEE collected from private households. The only exemption for many years is Norway, with a high amount of WEEE collected from sources other than from private households. For 2016 EE starts to report high amounts collected from these sources as well. The collection target applied until 2015 referred on WEEE collected from private households only while the collection target from 2016 onwards refers to total WEEE collected, including WEEE collected from sources other than from private households.
- (5) For some product categories, Member States and years, the amount of WEEE collected exceeds the amount of EEE put on the market. Several Member States stress the issue that not all producers and importers report the whole amount of EEE put on the market from, for instance, internet trade, (cross border) trade with used goods or other free riders.

In principle it is possible that the weight of the WEEE collected is higher than the amount put on the market for different reasons: a) less heavy products used for the same purpose; b) a drop in sales while at the same time the EoL amount remains stable; c) producers do not report their put-on-the-market products in their national registers; and/or d) stock effects.

- (6) For some product categories, Member States and years, the amount of WEEE treated exceeds the amount of WEEE collected. In most cases the excess is limited

¹ Document considers data submitted by the Member States until the 21 October 2019.

and reportedly caused either by stock effects or by specific collection campaigns, collecting 'historical' WEEE.

- (7) Calculation of the recovery as well as reuse and recycling rates:

For the reference year 2011 and before, some Member States calculated the recovery as well as reuse and recycling rates using the total amount of WEEE collected (column 4 in reporting table 1) as the denominator instead of the total amount of WEEE treated (summed values from columns 5, 6, and 7 in reporting table 1), as it should be done according to Directive 2002/96/EC.

From reference year 2014, with the application of WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU recasting Directive 2002/96/EC, the total amount of WEEE collected is considered as the denominator to calculate the recovery as well as reuse and recycling rates.

- (8) The Commission Decision 2005/369/EC on formats for reporting on WEEE mentions the cells for recovery of gas discharge lamps (reporting table 2, columns 1 and 2 for product category 5a) as 'n/a'. No recovery target for this product category is established in WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC and WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU. No entries for these cells are possible for the reference years 2011 and 2012. For the mentioned reference years, the amount of reuse and recycling for gas discharge lamps is considered as a proxy for the recovery for calculating the total recovery for all product categories. Germany, Lithuania, Finland and Slovakia claimed that some (additional) recovery operations are applied for waste gas discharge lamps, with the result that the total recovery (for all product categories) should be slightly higher. Therefore, national data for recovery of gas discharge lamps might differ slightly from the data published by Eurostat for the mentioned Member States. From the reference year 2013 it is possible for the Member States to report on volumes for recovery differently than the volumes of total reuse and recycling.
- (9) According the Eurostat document *Guidance for the compilation of the data according to Commission Decision 2005/369/EC*, the data for the product category 'gas discharge lamps' (category 5a) shall not be included in category 'lighting equipment' (category 5) to avoid double counting. Liechtenstein still declares that they do not exclude gas discharge lamps from the product category 'lighting equipment' for the reference year 2017.
- (10) For reference year 2015, the European Commission asked Member States for the first time to report on photovoltaic panels. The new product group 'photovoltaic panels' became a separate under category (4b) of a product category 4. In consequence from 2015 onwards in the product category 4 the sum of consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels are reported so that the category is called 'consumer equipment and photovoltaic panes' (previously was called only 'consumer equipment' and data submitted here before the reference year 2015 does not include photovoltaic panels). In the sub categories 4a 'consumer equipment' and 4b 'photovoltaic panels' the volumes on products consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels are supposed to be reported separately. The obligation to include photovoltaic panels is established by Directive 2012/19/EU. Only five Member States (CZ, DK, FR, NL, and UK) were able to distinguish the volumes for 4a and 4b for the reference year 2015. Most Member States continued to report on category 4 only. For the reference year 2016, 11 Member

States reported on consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels separately. For the reference year 2017, 13 Member States reported on consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels.

Please consider that the countries below are in protocol order, which is not identical to the alphabetical order in English.

Belgium

For the reference years 2009-2017 waste treatment is lower than waste collection (only exception is reference year 2014, where waste collected equals waste treatment), which results in a rising stock. BE explained that "Cumulated stock" does not mean the equipment is not treated, it means the data on treatment is missing. Further communication in this issue is ongoing.

Bulgaria

For reference years 2007 and 2008, the total EEE put on the market is higher than the sum of product categories because the data on amounts put on the market were not available for all categories but for the total EEE only.

The volume of put-on-the-market in kg per capita per year increased from a low level (7.6 kg/ capita) in reference year 2009 to 10.6 kg/ capita in reference year 2017. At the same time, the collection rate (total collected divided by the average weight of EEE put on the market in the 3 preceding years) is very high ($\bar{\phi} > 87.3\%$ for 2011-2017, for 2011 and 2015 it exceeds 100. For some product categories, the amount of WEEE collected is higher than the amount of EEE put on the market. There is relatively strong evidence that the amount of EEE put on the market is underestimated (e.g. EEE for industrial use, import of used goods, and other undeclared). This aspect is also supported by the results of the EC's *WEEE calculation tool* for the years 2010 to 2014, indicating a gap of 40 % to 50 % in reporting of put-on-the-market. Bulgaria argues that continuously high amounts of historic waste and other minor effects cause the mentioned high collection rate. To meet the national targets, the national PROs carried out collection campaigns in 2015, some of them organised as pay-outs to citizens. Bulgaria considers the amount of WEEE collected in 2015 as exceptional; the trend should normalise in the years 2016 and 2017.

Czech Republic

Change in methodology: For the years 2007 and 2008, gas discharge lamps are considered a subcategory of lighting equipment. Since 2009, gas discharge lamps have been excluded from lighting equipment.

For the period 2009 to 2015, the Czech Republic reported a difference of 16 682 tonnes between WEEE collected and WEEE treated. This is equivalent to the observation that for this period 4.1% of the WEEE collected is apparently not treated. The Czech Republic does not consider the mentioned amount untreated. However, the Czech Republic confirmed it would monitor these aspects in the future.

Denmark

Since 2009, the total collection of consumer equipment (since 2015 also in product category 'consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels') is substantially higher than the amounts put on the market. Denmark argues 'that new equipment is developing towards smaller and lighter models. This results in a lower weight put on market than collected.' In fact, the volume put on the market for consumer equipment halved since 2007, which is different from other countries. Activities, as described in the general note (5), might contribute to these effects.

In reference year 2017, Denmark noted in the methodology report that the data reported for gas discharge lamps has been in error, since the amount reported, comprises all types of light sources, and not only gas discharge lamps. Furthermore, the data for 2015 were doubly in error, since the two amounts were swapped. The data reported until this year (including data for 2018) represents the total amount for category 5. Communication is ongoing.

Germany

For 2011, Germany reports recovery of gas discharge lamps (8 840 t) on a voluntary basis as being slightly higher than the reuse and recycling amount (8 590 t). For 2012, Germany reports recovery of gas discharge lamps (9 344 t) on a voluntary basis as being slightly higher than the reuse and recycling amount (9 172 t). Please refer to the general note (8).

For reference year 2015, the total volume reported for 'prepared for reuse' (for previous years called 'reuse as a whole appliance') dropped from 15 552 tonnes in 2014 to 3 750 tonnes in 2015 and increased in 2016 to 10 445 tonnes and 2017 to 23 904 tonnes. Germany explained the drop in 2015 with changed reporting conditions.

Estonia

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Ireland

-/-

Greece

-/-

Spain

Spain reports a sharp decline of WEEE collected from households in 2008 and 2009. Possible reasons for this include: a drop in sales; problems of logistics and financial resources of the largest producer collection system responsible for financing management of waste from category 1; selective collection (cherry-picking) of WEEE not financed by the collection schemes that are not covered by the data.

For the period 2009 to 2015, Spain reported a substantial difference of 69 411 tonnes between WEEE collected and treated, equivalent to 5.6% of the WEEE collected apparently

not being treated. Data on WEEE collection are estimated, data on WEEE treated are certified. In effect, it is possible that the collection estimates are higher than the real weight of the waste treated. Additionally, Spain highlights that the discrepancies between WEEE collected and treated waste can be due to the fact that part of WEEE collected is treated outside Spain (in the EU and third countries). Since 2015, Spain has carried out diverse new actions in order to improve the situation. Effects, as described in the general note (5), might contribute to the mentioned observations.

France

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Croatia

-/-

Italy

Due to the established national reporting system, Italy is not able to separate the WEEE categories pursuant to Annex to the Commission Decision 2005/369/EC. Accordingly, almost only the totals are reported.

Totals for the treated amounts are much higher than amounts collected, most likely due to double counts. Data for WEEE treated in the country includes the quantities of WEEE sent for preliminary management operations (R13, D9, D14 and D15) before final recovery/disposal. As a result, data can include double counts where WEEE undergoes several treatment operations in the same reference year.

From the reference year 2014, Italy provides all required data.

Cyprus

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Latvia

-/-

Lithuania

Please refer to the general note (7).

Luxembourg

-/-

Hungary

-/-

Malta

For several categories in 2005 to 2008, the total amounts of WEEE collected are higher than the sums of WEEE collected from households and other sources because the allocation to source was not completely available. Thus, data on 'WEEE collected from households and from other sources' are incomplete while the figures on 'total collection' are complete.

Netherlands

Until 2011, the Netherlands reported the amounts put on the market for most categories sometimes in tonnes and sometimes in numbers. The data are thus not comparable to other countries. Since reference year 2012, the Netherlands reports the amounts put on the market in tonnes only.

Until 2010, the Netherlands calculated treatment rates on the basis of the collected amounts. As the total collected amount and the total treated amount are identical for most of the categories, this approach only becomes visible where both figures deviate. This is the case for product category 5 in 2009 and 2010 and product category 5a in 2009. For calculating the treatment rates, the amounts of reused whole appliances (which are included in 'total collected' and in 'total treated') are subtracted from 'total collected'. This approach has an impact only for the recovery and recycling/ reuse rates for the category 'automatic dispensers' in 2009 because for other categories the reuse of whole appliances is zero or very low.

For the years until 2008, the amounts in category 5a are included in category 5. However, adding up those categories results in double counting. The Netherlands announced it would correct the figures.

Austria

Austria included the amounts of reused whole appliances in the treated quantities until 2010. For calculating the treatment rates, Austria subtracts the amounts of 'reused whole appliances' from the 'total treated', resulting in a calculation that is compliant with the requirements.

Poland

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Portugal

From the reference year 2016 onwards, Portugal does not have separate information for 'collection from private households' and for 'collected other than from private households'. This way, according to the methodology report, Portugal accepted to collect data from several national sources, which until 2015 were providing data for columns 2 and 3 of table 1 in the Commission Decision. Portugal outlined that in the WEEE Directive (article 7) it is mentioned that the minimum collection rate shall be 45 %, calculated on the basis of the total weight of WEEE collected; there is no need for providing separate information for 'collection from private households' and for 'collection other than from private households'.

Romania

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Slovenia

-/-

Slovakia

Please refer to general note (7).

Finland

Since 2010, the total collection of consumer equipment (since 2015 the product category has been called 'consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels') is substantially higher than the amounts put on the market. The reason might be that new equipment is developing towards smaller and lighter models, for instance for TVs. This results in a lower weight put on market than collected. Effects, as described in the general note (5), might contribute to this.

In addition, please refer to general note (7).

Sweden

Since 2008, the total collection of consumer equipment (since 2015 the product category is called 'consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels') is substantially higher than the amounts put on the market. The reason might be that new equipment is developing towards smaller and lighter models, for instance for TVs. This results in a lower weight put on market than collected. Effects, as described in the general note (5), might contribute to this.

For the reference year 2016, Sweden suspects that producers from outside the EU do not report their put-on-the-market products, for example for automatic dispensers in the national register. Therefore, the amount reported as put-on-the-market could possibly be slightly higher than reported.

United Kingdom

The UK does not report data for WEEE treated in other Member States or treated outside of the EU. The UK states that the UK environment agencies have not authorised any WEEE to be 'treated in another Member State' or 'treated outside EU'; it is assumed that all WEEE collected within the UK has been treated in the country. Furthermore, UK regulations limit the export of WEEE to only whole appliances for re-use.

To calculate the figures for the column 'treated in Member State', the UK takes the total for separately collected WEEE and subtracts WEEE which has been reused as whole appliances.

For the reference years 2010 to 2013, the UK did not collect 'recovery' and 'recycling and reuse' data because of the change to its national WEEE legislation in 2010. However, this amendment requires Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities (AATFs) to meet specific conditions, which include that the separately collected WEEE is recovered, and when

treated, that the specific recycling targets are met. This is monitored through regular inspections of the permitted treatment operators and auditing of WEEE throughputs and outputs to ensure the relevant targets are met. As achieving the minimum targets is a condition of becoming an AATF, UK considers the recycling targets have been achieved.

Since the reference year 2014, the UK has been reporting on 'recovery' and 'recycling and reuse' data in detail, as required by the WEEE Directive.

The UK collects data both for EEE and WEEE for the category 'display equipment' (labeled category 11 in the UK), and this has been aggregated into category 3 'IT and telecommunications equipment' in Eurostat reporting. Although the UK realizes that some display equipment will include TVs from category 4, 'consumer equipment', it is not possible to break down this figure further. As a result, a small amount of WEEE that belongs in category 4 'consumer equipment' has been reported under category 3 'IT and telecommunications equipment'.

Iceland

Since reference year 2013 Iceland reports higher collection than treatment data. For reference year 2017, this is the case in almost all waste categories (exception Automatic dispensers and Monitoring and control instruments where collection equals treatment). Communication is ongoing in this issue.

Liechtenstein

For the reference years before 2011, no data were reported for 'put on the market' since there was no data collection system for EEE sellers in Liechtenstein. Because Liechtenstein has a customs treaty with Switzerland, there exists no customs between Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Data exists for imports from other countries, but not by product (e.g. EEE). Additionally, a lot of EEE are bought directly in Switzerland by private households.

Since 2011, it is no longer possible to transmit data (via webform) without submitting data for 'put on the market'. Therefore, since then Liechtenstein has been reporting that the amount 'put on the market' equals the amount 'collected from private households'.

Norway

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