Technical note about revisions of circular material use rate

Version: 13 November 2023

Eurostat is publishing a new dataset for the indicator circular material use rate (CMUR) on 14 November 2023. The new dataset includes first-ever estimates for the year 2022 plus statistical revisions of previously published figures for years 2012-2021 plus new estimates for years 2010-2011.

The statistical revisions of previously published figures for the years 2012-2021 are bigger than normal. These revisions are due to two factors:

1. Revisions of 2019 CMUR data. The revisions are latest for year 2019. The previously published estimates did not use the final waste data for year 2020 reported to Eurostat under the Waste Statistics Regulation (EC) 2150/2002. Instead, the previous CMUR estimates for year 2019 were based on an extrapolation of information for 2018 and previous years. The lockdown due to the COVID pandemic in 2020 triggered a turning point in waste generation patters that was not correctly reflected in those extrapolated estimates. The revised 2019 waste estimates make use of an interpolation of current data for years 2018 and 2020.

2. There has been a revision of one of the data sources used for CMUR, namely MFA. This affects all the years in the dataset. The revision is negligible in some countries but not in others. The most affected countries by those revisions are Finland (FI), Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Netherlands (NL), and Luxembourg (LU).
   - FI: Undertook significant up-wards revision of domestic extraction non-metallic minerals (e.g. sand and gravel), around 50-80% upwards revision.
   - AT: Downwards revision of entire time series (due to sand and gravel, metal ores).
   - BE: Revised downwards domestic extraction of biomass (e.g. fodder crops, timber).
   - NL: Significant revisions of imports and exports of fossil fuels.
   - LU: Significant revision upwards of domestic extraction of timber; Significant downwards revision of Eurostat's estimate of fossil fuels (2021).

These two factors are independent, and their effect accumulates, i.e. can make the statistical revisions bigger in some countries.

The CMUR estimates published in November 2023 improve previously published estimates as they take account of the most recent statistical information available.