

Other environmental accounts: Waste accounts
Year 2018

The Spanish economy generated 137.8 million tonnes of waste in 2018, 4.3% more than the previous year

Service companies generated 18.5% more hazardous waste than the previous year. In the case of Industry, waste was reduced by 18.2%

38.7% of the treated waste went towards recycling, 5.2% more in the annual rate

Generation of waste in the Spanish economy¹

The Spanish economy generated 137.8 million of waste in 2018, 4.3% less than the previous year. Of these, 3.2 million corresponded to hazardous waste (0.3% less than in 2017) and 134.6 million to non-hazardous waste (4.4% more).

Waste generated by type of waste². Year 2018

Units: thousands of tonnes.

	Total	Interannual variation rate (%)	Non- hazardous	Interannual variation rate (%)	Hazardous	Interannual variation rate (%)
Waste generated	137,822.9	4.3	134,598.7	4.4	3,224.2	-0.3
Mineral	72,341.3	4.7	71,756.9	4.9	584.4	-9.7
Mixed materials	37,849.2	5.5	37,765.2	5.5	84.0	12.3
Animal and vegetal	9,291.7	4.3	9,291.7	4.3	..	..
Metallic	5,977.3	2.3	5,977.3	2.3	..	..
Paper and cardboard	3,379.3	-6.8	3,379.3	-6.8	..	..
Chemical	2,325.0	-4.6	981.4	6.1	1,343.6	-11.1
Common sludges	1,603.3	1.5	1,603.3	1.5	..	..
Discarded equipment	1,483.0	22.0	305.7	22.8	1,177.3	21.8
Glass	1,170.4	4.3	1,170.4	4.3	0.0	-44.7
Wood	1,115.9	-4.9	1,114.9	-4.9	1.0	-7.9
Plastic	815.3	7.5	815.3	7.5	..	..
Others	471.2	-3.7	437.3	-4.1	33.9	1.8

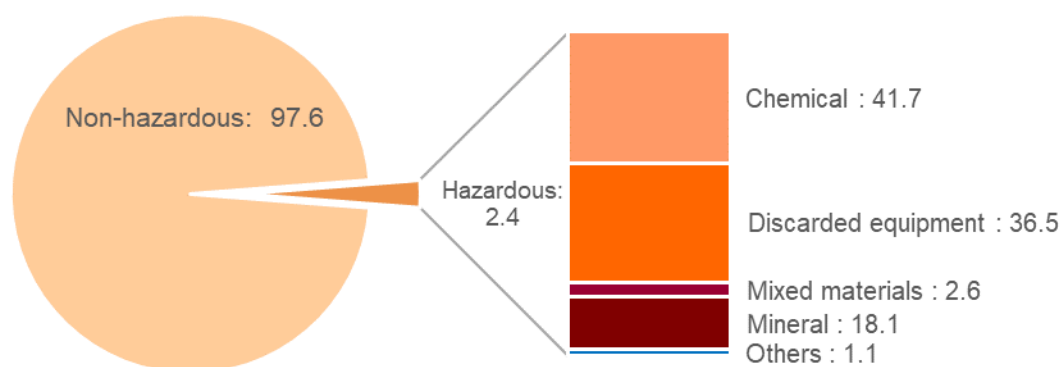
¹ A greater detail of the waste generated in the urban sphere can be consulted in the press release of the Statistics on the Collection and Treatment of Waste published today by the INE.

² The symbol “..” indicates the categories of waste not covered by Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002.

The most relevant categories of waste generated were *Mineral wastes* (72.3 million tonnes), *Mixed wastes* (37.8 million tonnes) and *Animal and vegetal wastes* (9.3 million tonnes).

In 2018, 97.6% of the waste generated was non-hazardous and 2.4% was hazardous. Of the total hazardous waste generated, 41.7% corresponded to *Chemical wastes*, 36.5% to *Discarded equipment* and 18.1% to *Mineral wastes*.

Waste generated in the Spanish economy (percentage). Year 2018



Generation of waste by activity sectors and households

83.5% of waste generated in 2018 corresponded to the *Activity Sectors* and 16.5% to *Households*.

The activities with the greatest increases were *Water supply, sanitation, waste management and decontamination* (13.6% more) and *Construction* (7.7% more). On the other hand, waste generation reduced by 1.3% in *Industry*.

On the other hand, *Households* as consumers generated 0.6% more waste.

Waste generated by activity sectors and households. Year 2018

Units: thousands of tonnes.

	Total	Variation rate (%)	Non-hazardous	Variation rate (%)	Hazardous	Variation rate (%)
Total	137,822.9	4.3	134,598.7	4.4	3,224.2	-0.3
Industry (Including mining and energy production)	40,587.3	-1.3	39,390.5	-0.7	1,196.8	-18.2
Construction	38,076.0	7.7	38,019.7	7.7	56.3	9.7
Water supply; sewerage. waste management and remediation activities	24,233.4	13.6	23,592.9	13.8	640.5	7.8
Agriculture. livestock breeding. forestry and fishing	6,258.3	3.4	6,230.1	3.3	28.2	22.1
Services	5,968.7	4.8	4,696.3	1.6	1,272.4	18.5
Households	22,699.2	0.6	22,669.2	0.6	30.0	1.4

By type of waste, the ones that had the greatest weight in those generated by *Households* were *Mixed Waste* (83.8% of the total), *Paper and Cardboard* (4.7%), *Animal and Vegetable Waste* (4.4) and *Glass* (3.7%).

On the other hand, the main wastes generated by the *Activity Sectors* were *Mineral wastes* (52.5% of the total) and *Mixed wastes* (27.5%).

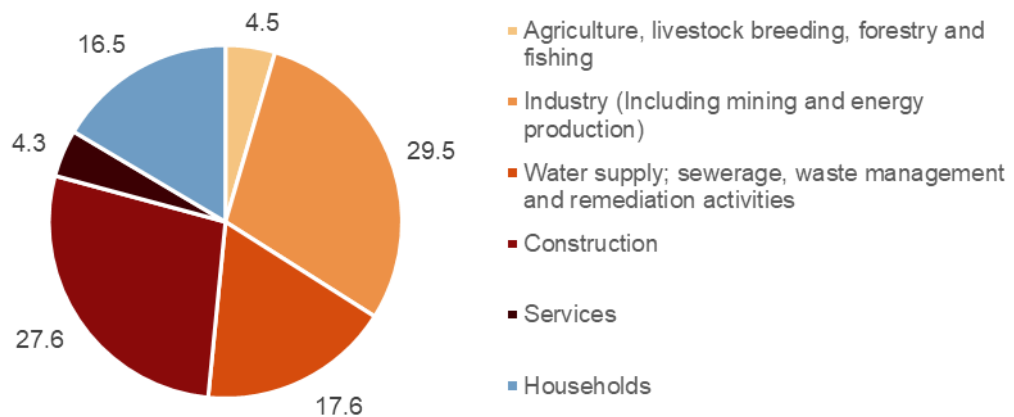
Types of wastes generated by activity sectors and households. Year 2018

Units: thousands of tonnes.

	Total	% of the total	Economic sectors	% of the total	Households	% of the total
Waste generated	137,822.9	100.0	115,123.7	100.0	22,699.2	100
Mineral	72,341.3	52.5	71,868.8	62.4	472.5	2.1
Mixed materials	37,849.2	27.5	18,833.0	16.4	19,016.2	83.8
Animal and vegetal	9,291.7	6.7	8,281.7	7.2	1,010.0	4.4
Metallic	5,977.3	4.3	5,949.4	5.2	27.9	0.1
Paper and cardboard	3,379.3	2.5	2,311.9	2.0	1,067.4	4.7
Chemical	2,325.0	1.7	2,315.7	2.0	9.3	0.0
Common sludges	1,603.3	1.2	1,603.3	1.4	..	..
Discarded equipment	1,483.0	1.1	1,422.4	1.2	60.6	0.3
Glass	1,170.4	0.8	335.7	0.3	834.7	3.7
Wood	1,115.9	0.8	979.7	0.8	136.2	0.6
Plastic	815.3	0.6	791.2	0.7	24.1	0.1
Others	471.2	0.3	430.9	0.4	40.3	0.2

The activities that generated the greatest amount of waste in 2018 were *Industry* (29.5% of the total) and *Construction* (27.6%).

Waste generated by activity sectors and households (percentage). Year 2018



Types of wastes generated by activity sectors. Year 2018

Units: thousands of tonnes.

	Total sectors	Industry (Including mining and energy production)	Construction	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and fishing	Services
Waste generated	115,123.7	40,587.3	38,076.0	24,233.4	6,258.3	5,968.7
Mineral	71,868.8	32,464.0	37,644.9	1,655.5	13.0	91.4
Mixed materials	18,833.0	935.5	35.5	16,386.5	386.0	1,089.5
Animal and vegetal	8,281.7	1,603.8	62.4	19.3	5,718.4	877.8
Metallic	5,949.4	1,971.1	74.7	3,646.5	8.9	248.2
Chemical	2,315.7	1,594.8	8.8	513.9	32.8	165.4
Paper and cardboard	2,311.9	668.8	63.6	227.5	14.3	1,337.7
Common sludges	1,603.3	286.8	4.2	1,302.3	5.3	4.7
Discarded equipment	1,422.4	27.8	4.8	140.1	7.7	1,242.0
Wood	979.7	588.1	144.1	47.4	20.2	179.9
Plastic	791.2	248.8	22.6	213.4	40.0	266.4
Others	430.9	77.3	1.6	7.2	10.4	334.4
Glass	335.7	120.5	8.8	73.8	1.3	131.3

By sectors, Mineral waste was mainly caused by Construction (37.6 million tons, 7.7% more than in 2017) and Industry (32.5 million tons, 1.6% more). Mixed Wastes by Water Supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (16.4 million, 15.5% more than the previous year).

On the other hand, Animal and Vegetable Waste was generated for the most part by Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing (5.7 million tons, 2.2% more than in 2017).

Annual variation rates of waste generated by activity sectors. Year 2018

Units: percentage

	Total sectors	Industry (Including mining and energy production)	Construction	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and fishing	Services
Waste generated	5.1	-1.3	7.7	13.6	3.4	4.8
Mineral	4.8	1.6	7.7	5.1	18.2	-2.8
Mixed materials	11.4	-27.2	6.3	15.5	17.3	2.3
Animal and vegetal	3.1	6.5	6.5	53.2	2.2	1.8
Metallic	2.2	-10.8	8.9	10.9	39.1	-0.5
Chemical	-4.8	-13.2	8.6	28.9	22.8	1.8
Paper and cardboard	-9.8	-26.9	10.8	-10.9	10.0	1.2
Common sludges	1.5	-0.3	7.7	1.9	12.8	2.2
Discarded equipment	22.7	0.0	6.7	49.2	24.2	20.9
Wood	-0.4	-3.9	10.3	7.5	4.1	1.2
Plastic	7.8	-9.1	8.7	48.4	17.6	1.9
Others	-4.3	-9.9	6.7	-18.2	13.0	-3.0
Glass	9.5	-7.6	10.0	81.3	18.2	3.8

Final waste treatment in the Spanish economy

Of the 137.8 million tons of waste generated in 2018, final waste treatment companies³ handled 122.0 million tons, which was 5.6% more than in the previous year.

Specifically, they treated 119.6 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste (5.7% more than in 2017) and 2.3 million tonnes of hazardous waste (1.2% more).

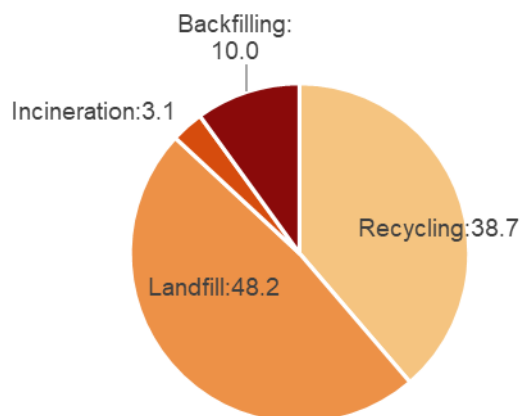
Final waste treatment. Year 2018

Units: thousands of tonnes.

Waste treatment (by type of treatment)	Quantity	Interannual variation rate (%)
Total waste treatment	121,957.6	5.6
Non-hazardous	119,647.8	5.7
Hazardous	2,309.8	1.2
Recycling	47,245.1	5.2
Non-hazardous	45,615.1	5.3
Hazardous	1,630.0	2.7
Landfill	58,811.4	-5.5
Non-hazardous	58,291.4	-5.5
Hazardous	520.0	-6.8
Incineration	3,720.7	-8.5
Non-hazardous	3,560.9	-9.4
Hazardous	159.8	17.1
Backfilling	12,180.4	185.2
Non-hazardous	12,180.4	185.2
Hazardous	0.0	..

Of the total waste treated, 48.2% ended up in landfill, 38.7% was recycled, 10.0% was reused in backfilling operations and 3.1% was incinerated.

Final waste treatment (percentage). Year 2018



³ Only final treatments are included. The primary differences between the waste generated and that treated, as published in the Waste Account, are due, among other reasons, to exclusively accounting for final treatments, foreign trade in waste (imports and exports) and the differences in volume between the time when waste is generated and when it is finally treated.

In 2018, 47.2 million tonnes of waste were recycled, 5.2% more than in 2017. Of this figure, 44.8% corresponded to *Mineral wastes*, 22.7% to *Metallic wastes*, and 8.3% to *Paper and cardboard*.

Recycled wastes showing the highest growth rates in 2018 were *Plastics* (38.2%) and *Mixed Waste* (26.3%). In turn, *Wood* decreased by 5.8% compared to 2017.

Recycling by waste category. Year 2018

Units: thousands of tonnes.

Recycled waste (by type)	Recycling	% of the total	Interannual variation rate (%)
TOTAL	47,245.1	100.0	5.2
Mineral	21,155.7	44.8	3.7
Metallic	10,747.6	22.7	1.4
Paper and cardboard	3,912.6	8.3	1.9
Mixed materials	3,629.0	7.7	26.3
Animal and vegetal	1,771.6	3.7	8.6
Chemical	1,274.2	2.7	14.3
Common sludges	1,272.0	2.7	1.2
Glass	1,115.6	2.4	10.6
Wood	967.0	2.0	-5.8
Plastic	645.4	1.4	38.2
Discarded equipment	570.7	1.2	9.3
Others	183.7	0.4	2.3

Data Review and Update

The data published today are final. The results are available at INEBase.

Methodological note

The objective of the Environmental Accounts (EA) is to integrate the environmental information in a coherent way in the central system of National Accounts. They include a set of satellite accounts, with annual transmission, compiled using the accounting formats applicable to the different sectoral and territorial areas, with a strong presence of physical data.

The Waste Accounts are useful for organising information on the generation of waste and the management of its flows to recycling facilities, backfilling operations, incineration and controlled landfills. From this information, important indicators can be obtained to measure the pressure that the economy exerts on the environment. They also make it possible to monitor the objectives of waste reduction policies and evaluate improvements in management for the recovery of materials.

The study of waste includes the generation and treatment of waste in accordance with the guidelines established in Regulation (EC) 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November on waste statistics, as amended by Regulation (EU) 849/2010.

The INE annually carries out the Statistics on Generation, Collection and Treatment of Waste with the aim of quantifying the origin and treatment thereof. This information, together with information from other bodies, mainly that provided by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, provides the basis for the preparation of the Waste Accounts.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

https://ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736177062&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735976603

The standardized methodological report is at:

<https://ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30095>

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