12 November 2025

Environmental accounts. Waste account

Year 2023

Main results

- The Spanish economy generated 112.7 million tonnes of waste in 2023, 3.5% more than the previous year.
- 49.9 million tonnes of waste was recycled, 1.9% more than in 2022.

More information

- Detailed results
- Environmental Indicator Portal
- Infographic

The Spanish economy generated 112.7 million tonnes of waste in 2023, 3.5% more than the previous year. Of this, 3.3 million tonnes was hazardous waste (3.8% less than in 2022) and 109.4 million was non-hazardous waste (3.7% more).

The most significant categories of waste generated were *Mineral waste* (49.5 million tonnes), *Mixed waste* (35.8 million tonnes) and *Animal and plant waste* (9.0 million tonnes).

Waste generated by type of waste. 2023
Thousands of tonnes

	Total	Variation rate	Non-hazardous	Variation rate	Hazardous	Variation rate
Waste generated	112,694.6	3.5	109,379.1	3.7	3,315.5	-3.8
Mineral	49,504.7	14.0	48,834.6	14.2	670.1	2.7
Mixed materials	35,764.4	-5.4	35,689.4	-5.4	75.0	-3.7
Animal and plant	8,988.2	-1.2	8,988.2	-1.2	..	..
Metallic	5,554.3	-4.3	5,554.3	-4.3	..	..
Paper and cardboard	3,600.0	7.7	3,600.0	7.7	..	..
Chemical	2,482.1	-5.0	1,025.3	-5.5	1,456.9	-4.6
Common sludges	1,351.3	0.5	1,351.3	0.5	..	..
Glass	1,324.1	-4.9	1,323.3	-4.9	0.8	-11.1
Discarded equipment	1,319.8	-2.5	246.1	7.7	1,073.6	-4.5
Plastic	1,112.6	-1.9	1,112.6	-1.9	..	..
Wood	1,048.1	-1.1	1,047.2	-1.2	0.9	..
Others	644.9	20.7	606.7	29.0	38.1	-40.6

In 2023, 97.0% of the waste generated was non-hazardous and 3.0% was hazardous. Of the total hazardous waste generated, 43.9% was *Chemical waste*, 32.4% was *Discarded equipment* and 20.2% was *Mineral wastes*.

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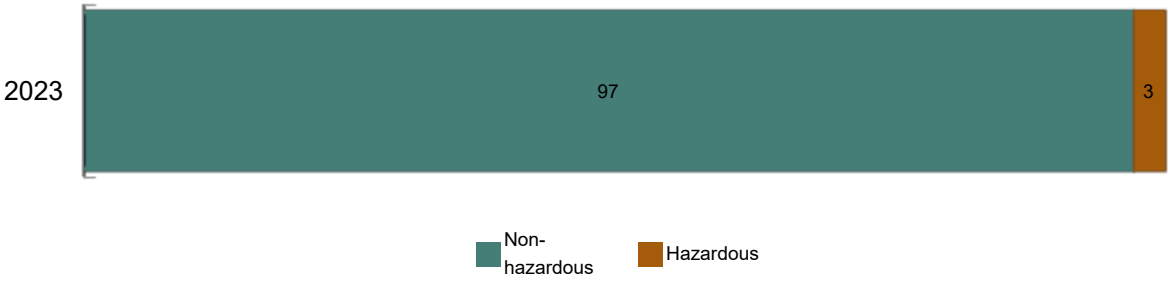
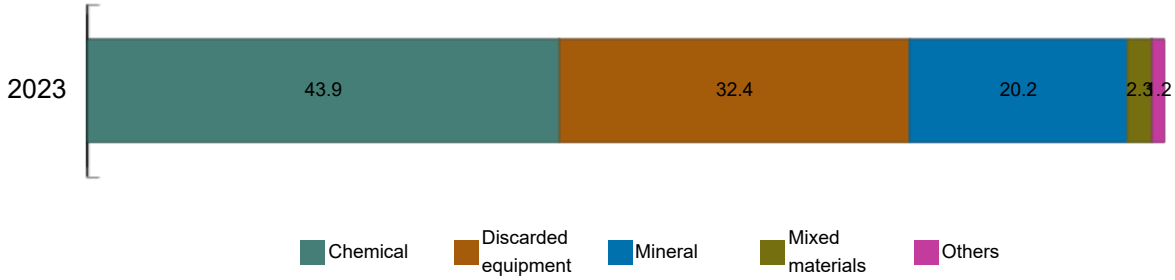
Waste generated in the Spanish economy (percentage). 2023



Hazardous waste generated in the Spanish economy (percentage). 2023



Waste generated by activity sectors and households

80.6% of waste generated in 2023 was produced by the *Activity Sectors* and 19.4% by *Households*.

The activity that recorded the highest increase was *Construction* (17.5%). In contrast, waste generation decreased by 5.2% in *Water supply, sanitation, waste management and remediation*. Meanwhile, *Households* as consumers generated 2.8% less waste.

Waste generated by activity sectors and households. 2023
Thousands of tonnes

	Total	Variation rate	Non-hazardous	Variation rate	Hazardous	Variation rate
Total	112,694.6	3.5	109,379.1	3.7	3,315.5	-3.8
Construction	42,590.1	17.5	42,393.7	17.6	196.5	0.3
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	22,367.0	-5.2	21,648.1	-5.5	718.8	3.6
Industry (Including mining and energy production)	14,165.9	-4.1	12,939.8	-4.2	1,226.1	-3.6
Services	5,953.4	2.6	4,934.8	6.2	1,018.5	-11.6
Agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and fishing	5,782.1	-4.3	5,759.7	-4.3	22.4	-7.8
Households	21,836.1	-2.8	21,702.9	-2.9	133.3	21.8

By type of waste, the ones that had the greatest weight in those generated by Households were *Mixed* (80.9% of the total). On the other hand, the main wastes generated by the *Activity Sectors* were *Mineral wastes* (53.9% of the total).

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The activities that generated the greatest amount of waste in 2023 were *Construction* (46.9% of the total) and *Water supply, sanitation, waste management and decontamination* (24.6%).

By sectors, *Mineral waste* was mainly caused by *Construction* (42.2 million tonnes, 17.5% more than in 2022) and *Industry* (5.6 million tonnes, 4.3% less). *Mixed Wastes* produced by *Water Supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation* activities (15.5 million, 7.0% less than the previous year).

Meanwhile, *Animal and Plant Waste* was generated for the most part by *Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing* (5.4 million tonnes, 3.6% less).

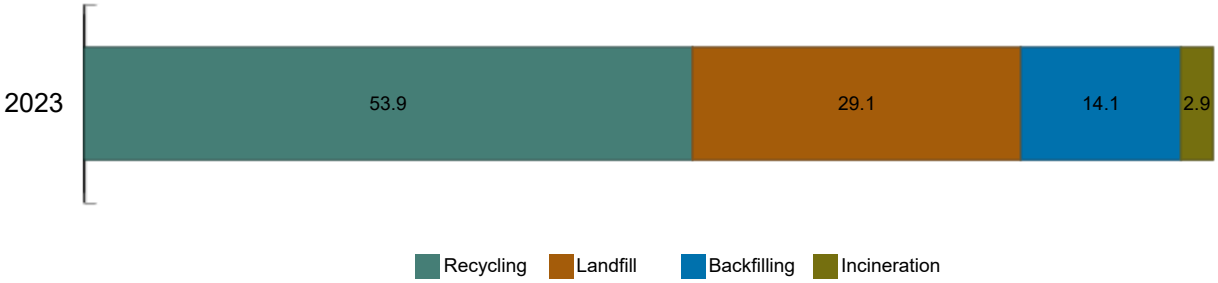
Final treatment of waste in the Spanish economy

Of the 112.7 million tonnes of waste generated in 2023, final waste treatment companies handled 92.5 million tonnes, which was 3.4% more than in the previous year.

Specifically, they treated 90.1 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste (3.5% more than in 2022) and 2.4 million tonnes of hazardous waste (1.5% less).

Of the total of treated waste, 53.9% was recycled, 29.1% was dumped, 14.1% was reused in landfill operations and 2.9% was incinerated.

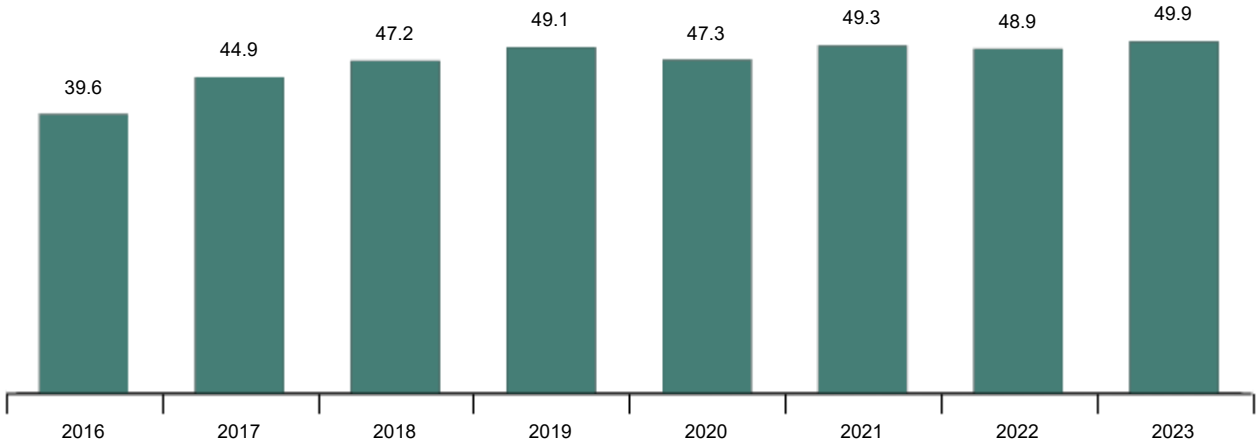
Final waste treatment (percentage). 2023



Recycled waste

In 2023, 49.9 million tonnes of waste was recycled, 1.9% more than the previous year and 26.0% more than in 2016.

Recycled waste. 2016-2023 Series
Millions of tonnes



In percentage terms, the amount of recycled waste decreased by 0.8 points compared with 2022, though it increased 16.8 points compared with 2016.

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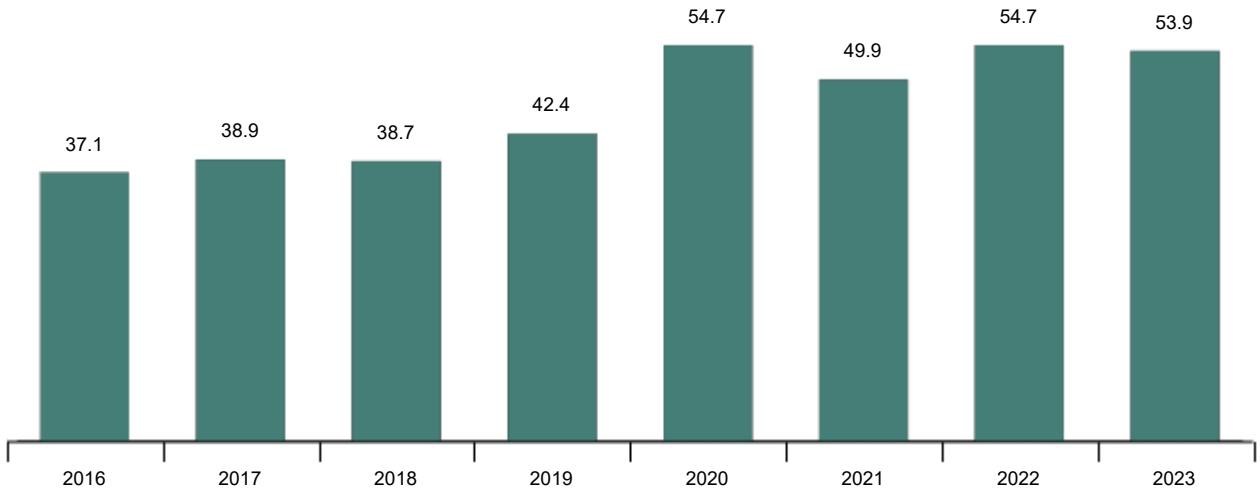
Recycled waste. 2016-2023 Series
Percentage



Data revisions and updates

The data published today is provisional and will be revised when next year's data is released. All results of this operation are available on INEbase.

Current press release at:https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/CR2023.htm

Methodological note

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

The Waste Account is useful for organising information on waste generation and the management of its flows to recycling facilities, landfill operations, incineration and controlled landfills. Important indicators can be obtained from it 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 material recovery.

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 compiles the Statistics on the Generation, Collection and Treatment of Waste with the aim of quantifying the origin and treatment of waste. This information, together with information from other bodies, mainly that provided by the Ministry for Ecological Transition, forms the basis for the preparation of the Waste Account.

More information on the methodology and the standardised methodological report.

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information on Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices.

For further information see INE base

Official INE account on @es_ine

All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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