

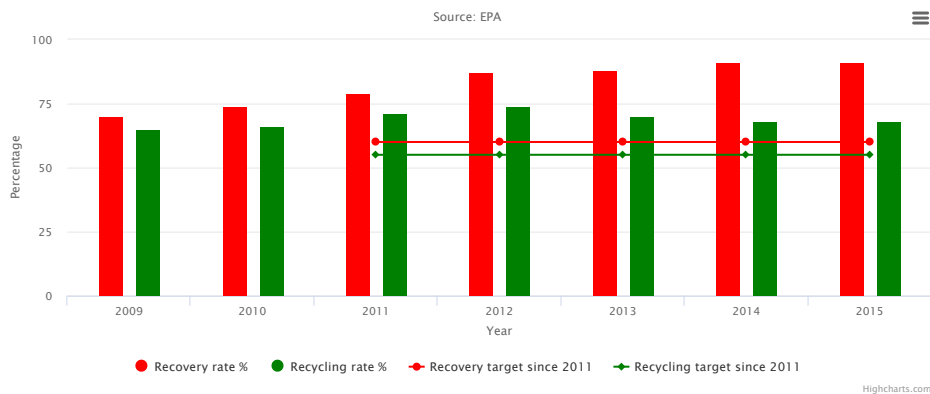
WASTE PACKAGING STATISTICS FOR IRELAND

EPA Waste Data Release, 26 October 2017

Latest Reference Year 2015

Ireland met all EU targets for recovery and recycling of packaging waste in 2015.

Percentage recovery and recycling rates, 2009 to 2015

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KEY TRENDS

Packaging is used to contain, protect and present goods and is made from materials such as glass, paper & cardboard, metals, plastic, wood, and composite materials. The EU Packaging and Waste Packaging Directive seeks to promote the recovery and recycling of packaging waste to reduce its environmental impact and encourage resource efficiency. Each Member State is obliged to meet targets for the overall recovery of waste packaging and recycling targets for glass, plastic, paper & board, metals and wood.

- ▶ It is estimated that 983,380 tonnes of packaging waste was generated.
- ▶ The majority, by weight, of packaging waste was recycled.
- ▶ Of the total generated, 91% (898,690 tonnes) was recovered. This includes 68% (664,120 tonnes) of waste packaging that was recycled.

The amount of black bin (residual) waste sent for incineration with energy recovery has increased in Ireland, particularly since 2012. Some waste management facilities mechanically process waste and produce Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF). Much residual waste, RDF and SRF is sent for energy recovery rather than disposal to landfill and this is reflected in the increase in packaging waste recovery in Ireland. The prevention, preparation for reuse and recycling of waste packaging is preferable to energy recovery. New ambitious recycling targets for waste packaging are proposed under the European Commission's Circular Economy Package and will be challenging for Ireland to achieve.

Show Table 1 Waste packaging generation and treatment, 2015

Material	Packaging waste generated	Recovered or incinerated at waste incineration plants with energy recovery by:							Recycling rate %	Rate of recovery or incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery %
		Material recycling	Other forms of recycling	Total recycling	Energy recovery	Other forms of recovery	Incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery	Total recovery and incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery		
Glass	143,598	125,772		125,772		941		126,713	88	88
Plastic	282,148	83,678	12,212	95,890	39,676	8,884	92,902	237,352	34	84
Paper & board	405,677	316,208	7,048	323,256	30,498	4,409	44,639	402,802	80	99
Metals	Aluminium									
	Steel									
	Total	65,861	49,113	49,113		1,858		50,971	75	77
Wood	82,036	70,067		70,067	10,448	90		80,605	85	98
Other (textiles)	4,064	21		21		230		251	1	6
Total	983,384	644,859	19,260	664,119	80,622	16,412	137,541	898,694	68	91

Data table for 2015 reference year as submitted to the European Commission.

Data in tonnes unless otherwise specified.

Open in Excel: [Table 1 Waste packaging generation and treatment, 2015 \(XLS 12KB\)](#)

Show Table 2 Waste packaging exported for recovery, 2015

Material	Packaging waste sent to other Member States or exported outside the Community for:				
	Material recycling	Other forms of recycling	Energy recovery	Other forms of recovery	Incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery
Glass	119,986				
Plastic	77,958				68,296
Paper & board	310,665				32,759
Metals	Aluminium				

	Steel				
	Total	49,111			
Wood		222			
Other					
Total		557,940			101,055

Data table for 2015 reference year as submitted to the European Commission

Data in tonnes

Open in Excel: [Table 2 Waste packaging exported for recovery, 2015 \(XLS 11KB\)](#)

Show [Table 3 Waste packaging recycling, 2015](#)

Material	Packaging Directive recycling target	Recycling rate, 2015
Glass	60% by weight	88%
Plastic	22.5% by weight, counting exclusively material that is recycled back into plastics	34%
Paper & board	60% by weight	80%
Metals	50% by weight	75%
Wood	15% by weight	85%

Open in Excel: [Table 3 Waste packaging recycling, 2015 \(XLS 9KB\)](#)