

Urban Solid Waste, 2024

Tirana, 23 September 2025: In 2024, a total of 862,241 tons of waste were managed in Albania, marking an increase of 2.14% compared to 2023. Each inhabitant generated an average of 360 kg of waste during the year. Waste per capita increased by 9 kg over the last two years (from 351 kg in 2023 to 360 kg in 2024).

Recycling of waste has remained almost unchanged, while landfilling continues to dominate as the main disposal method. The composition of municipal waste has maintained the same structure over the years, with a slight increase in plastics and metals.

Key Points

- 89.5% of the total waste consisted of household and similar waste (771 thousand tons).
- Organic waste accounted for more than half of the total (57.3%).
- Plastics and paper/cardboard followed as the next categories (around 9–10% each).
- 76.3% of waste was disposed of through landfilling.
- 18.8% of waste underwent recycling (material recovery).
- 4.9% was incinerated with energy recovery.
- Uncontrolled disposal outside landfills was significantly reduced, remaining at only 0.02% of the total.

Tab. 1 Total urban waste managed by generating sources (kg/capita) 2022-2024

Year	Total waste	Total managed	Of which not urban	Of which urban
	Tonnes	kg/capita/year	kg/capita/year	kg/capita/year
2022	820,322	295	34	261
2023	844,157	351	36	315
2024	862,241	360	38	322

Source: Municipalities / Processing INSTAT

The data on managed waste per kg/person have been calculated based on the population as of 1 January 2024

For more information and to access the detailed tables, please visit the official INSTAT database: [Municipal Solid Waste, 2024](#).

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Methodology

Since 2020, data collection has been carried out electronically through online questionnaires sent to all municipalities across the country. This process enhances the quality, accuracy, and transparency of the annual municipal waste statistics.

Information on municipal solid waste in Albania is compiled on an annual basis and aggregated at the national level. The data presented in this publication were collected in the field through online interviews using electronic questionnaires completed by the personnel responsible for waste management in the respective municipalities.

The municipal solid waste covered in this publication consists of household solid waste and other similar wastes generated by community services for the population in inhabited areas, including temporary settlements. The municipal waste statistics follow standard statistical indicators, in accordance with Albanian and European legislation, implementing the same classifications and definitions established by the relevant regulations,

Albanian Official Statistics Program for the period 2022–2026, and the European Commission Regulation No. 2150/2002 on Waste Statistics.

Definitions

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Any solid substance or object that the holder discards or intends/ is required to discard. This includes household waste and other similar wastes generated in inhabited areas as part of community services.

Publicly Managed Waste: Waste managed by local authorities and financed from municipal budgets for residents within their administrative territory.

Urban Waste: The portion of solid waste generated by households and daily community services (non-industrial). It is usually collected in city bins and constitutes the majority of managed waste.

Non-urban Waste: Waste that does not originate directly from households or community services but is sometimes managed together with urban waste. This includes industrial, construction, and other similar wastes.

Industrial Waste Managed with Urban Waste: Waste from industrial activities (especially small businesses in urban areas) that is deposited in the same bins and managed together with urban waste.

Relative Composition of Waste: Shows the percentage by weight of each material category (e.g., organic, plastic, paper) relative to the total managed waste.

Waste Treatment: Includes standard methods of waste management, such as:

For more information visit INSTAT webpage: <https://www.instat.gov.al/>

- **Landfilling:** Disposal in authorized waste sites.
- **Incineration for energy recovery:** Burning waste to generate energy.
- **Incineration for disposal:** Burning waste without energy recovery.
- **Recycling:** Recovery of materials for further use.
- **Uncontrolled disposal:** Waste disposed of outside the formal management system.

Kilograms per person per year (kg/person/year): A unit of measurement indicating the average amount of waste generated per resident in one year.