

URBAN SOLID WASTE

2026

In 2025, a total of 900.8 thousand tonnes of waste were managed in Albania, 4.5% more than the previous year. On average, each inhabitant generated 383 kg of waste during the year, 23 kg more than in 2024.

The recycling rate remained at around 18%, almost unchanged compared with 2024., while disposal in landfills continues to be the main treatment method. Additionally, the composition of urban waste has maintained almost the same structure over the years.

Key Points

- 900.8 thousand tonnes of waste managed;
- 383 kg of waste per inhabitant;
- 77 % of waste was disposed of in landfills;
- 18 % was recycled;
- 90.3 % of the population was covered by the waste collection service.

TAB. 1 TOTAL URBAN WASTE MANAGED BY GENERATING SOURCES (KG/CAPITA) 2023-2025

Year	Total waste	Total managed	Of which not urban	Of which urban
	Tonnes	kg/capita/year	kg/capita/year	kg/capita/year
2023	844.157	351	36	315
2024	862.241	360	38	322
2025	900.782	383	42	341

Source: Municipalities / Processing INSTAT

The managed waste data expressed in kg per inhabitant for 2025 were calculated using the average annual population for 2025.

Note to users:

Detailed data are available in INSTAT's statistical database: [Annual survey on urban waste](#)

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.

Mbetje jo-urbane: Waste that does not originate directly from households or community services, but is managed by municipalities together with municipal waste. This may include waste from economic, industrial, commercial, construction activities, or other similar sources.

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:

- **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.