

WEEE statistics for Ireland

EPA waste data release 23 July 2020. Latest reference year 2018.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is one of the fastest growing waste streams worldwide. In 2018, Ireland surpassed all EU targets for collection, recycling and recovery of WEEE.

Figure 1. WEEE collected and recovered, 2008 – 2018

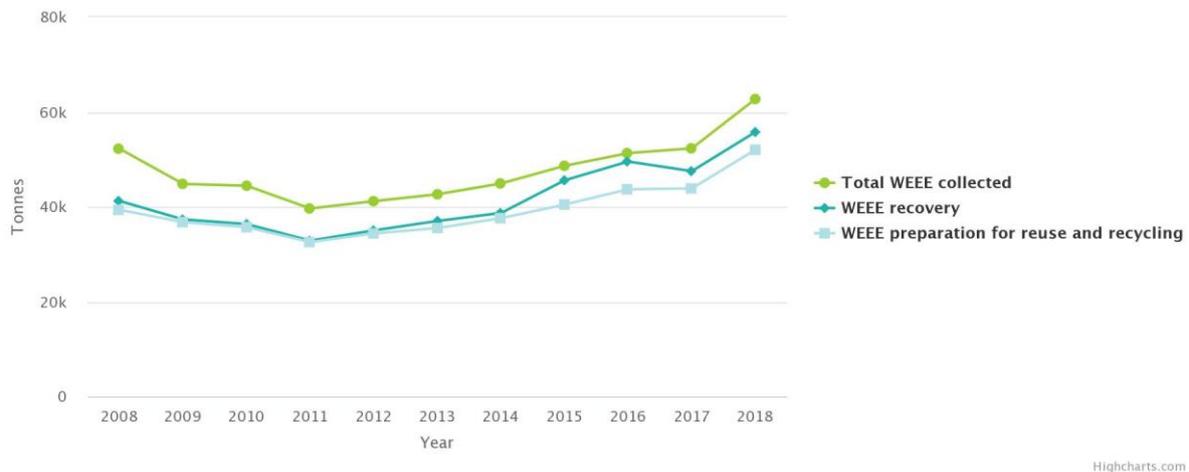


Figure 1. WEEE collected and recovered, 2008 - 2018

Year	Total WEEE collected	WEEE recovery	WEEE preparation for reuse and recycling
2008	52231	41217	39353
2009	44812	37323	36745
2010	44431	36343	35688
2011	39629	32846	32546
2012	41177	35012	34360
2013	42628	36994	35509
2014	44911	38684	37584
2015	48626	45576	40458
2016	51303	49534	43681
2017	52312	47504	43860
2018	62714	55754	52010

Key trends

Figure 1 above illustrates the trends in WEEE collected and recovered in Ireland over time. The economic recession that occurred between 2008 and 2011 led to a decrease in the quantity of WEEE collected, as householders and business did not replace electrical and electronic equipment as frequently as before. The marked increase in total WEEE collected from 2012 to 2018 is likely driven by the recovering economy, underscoring the link between economic wealth and consumption of electronic goods.

- In 2018, Ireland reached the EU WEEE recycling and recovery targets for all ten categories of WEEE.
- The 2018 EU WEEE collection target is set at 45% of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market. In 2018, Ireland achieved a collection percentage of 61. This EU target will rise to 65% from 2019.
- More than 62,700 tonnes of WEEE (all categories, household and non-household) were collected for treatment in 2018, a 20% increase on 2017. This increase reflects the

inclusion in the 2018 figures of a substantiated estimate of WEEE contained in mixed metal streams¹.

- More than 55,700 tonnes of WEEE were recovered in 2018.
- 63 per cent (by weight) of WEEE collected in Ireland in 2018 consisted of large household appliances.
- 73 per cent of the WEEE collected in 2018 was pre-treated in Ireland.

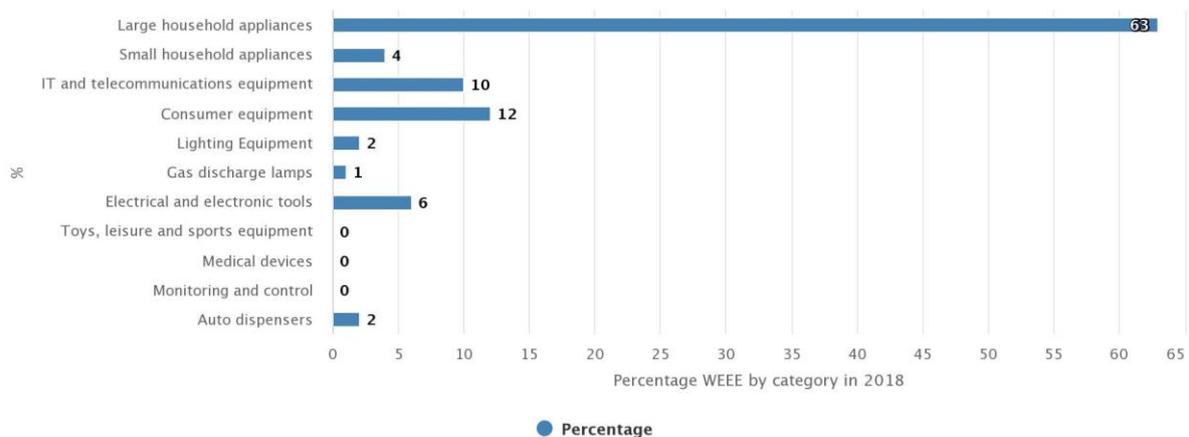
Reusing appliances and devices and recovering the valuable materials contained in them (metal, plastic, glass, rare metals) once they become waste is beneficial to the environment. Recovery activities include preparing for reuse, recycling, energy recovery and other recovery. The EPA's most recent [waste characterisation study](#) found that substantial amounts of WEEE were still present in household bins. These results indicate that there is further room for improvement in terms of ensuring this material is separately collected through the available channels, to allow the maximum value to be extracted from these valuable materials.

[1Ryan-Fogarty, Y., Casey, K., Coughlan, D., Lichrou, M., O'Malley, L., Fitzpatrick, C., \(2020 \(estimated publication date is July\). An Investigation into WEEE Arising & Not Arising in Ireland \(EEE2WEEE\), 2017-RE-MS-9](#)

WEEE is currently broken down into ten categories for EU reporting purposes. This classification will be replaced by a new set of six categories for reference year 2019.

Large household appliances accounted for 63% (by weight) of all WEEE collected in 2018. For 2018, a large amount of WEEE in mixed metal streams were assigned to 'large household appliances'.

Figure 2. WEEE collected by category



Categories		EU recovery target	Ireland's recovery percentage	EU preparation for reuse and recycling target	Ireland's preparation for reuse and recycling percentage
1	Large household appliances	85%	90%	80%	84%
2	Small household appliances	75%	82%	55%	71%
3	IT and telecommunications equipment	80%	90%	70%	85%
4	Consumer equipment	80%	90%	70%	84%
5	Lighting equipment	75%	95%	55%	83%
5a	Gas discharge lamps	Not applicable	88%	80%	84%
6	Electrical and electronic tools	75%	79%	55%	72%
7	Toys, leisure and sports equipment	75%	83%	55%	72%
8	Medical devices	75%	77%	55%	60%
9	Monitor and control instruments	75%	83%	55%	72%
10	Automatic dispensers	85%	89%	80%	82%

Open in Excel: [Table 1 WEEE recovery rates 2018 \(XLS 17KB\)](#)