



Reporting on food waste at EU level

Eurostat

FOOD LOSS AND WASTE MONITORING SUB-GROUP

Online, 12 November 2024



Tweet

Food waste: 132 kg per inhabitant in the EU in 2022.

Food waste in the EU by main economic sectors, 2022

(kg per inhabitant)

Primary production

10 KG

Retail and other distribution of food

11 KG

Restaurants and food services

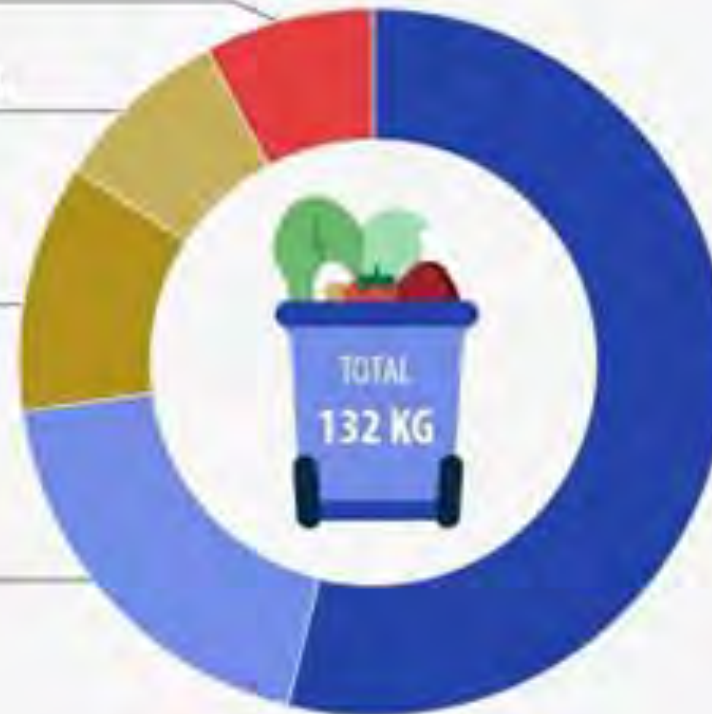
15 KG

Manufacture of food products and beverages

25 KG

Households

72 KG



Data not available for Greece, Spain, Lithuania and Romania.
EU aggregate: estimated

eurostat



European
Commission

Eurostat's role

- Collect, validate and publish data under current legislation
- Maintain guidance, questionnaires
- Limited knowledge on feasibility of collecting new variables

Data collection 2024 (reference year 2022)

- Data validation and exchanges with reporting countries fully resolved by mid SEP2024;
- all reporting countries (23 MS + NO + IS) justified in QR (section 7.2) any 20% variation (by stage) compared to previous years
- IS reported for the first time (2022 data).
- **NEW: voluntary metadata provided by 15 MS by mid September 2024 + 1 MS in mid October 2024 (under check)**
- 2 MSs have not yet reported 2022 data, 1 MS have not reported 2021 and 2022 data, 1 MS have not reported 2020, 2021 and 2022 data
- Some MS revised 2020 and 2021 data

Food waste data collection 2024 new voluntary metadata

Voluntary metadata on **measurement methodologies**

By mid September 2024 AT, BE, BG, CY, DE , FI, FR, HR, IE, LU, MT, PL,PT, SE and SI provided the voluntary metadata. These are already available in CIRCABC since 27SEP2024.

(+IT currently under validation; total: 16)

EUROSTAT thanks all the countries that have either submitted or contacted us for the preparation of the metadata

Direct link to the CIRCABC folder:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/b01d2930-990e-44fb-9121-a9a6b00a1283/library/54f77aad-4cc1-44f9-aa81-76870cdebe16>

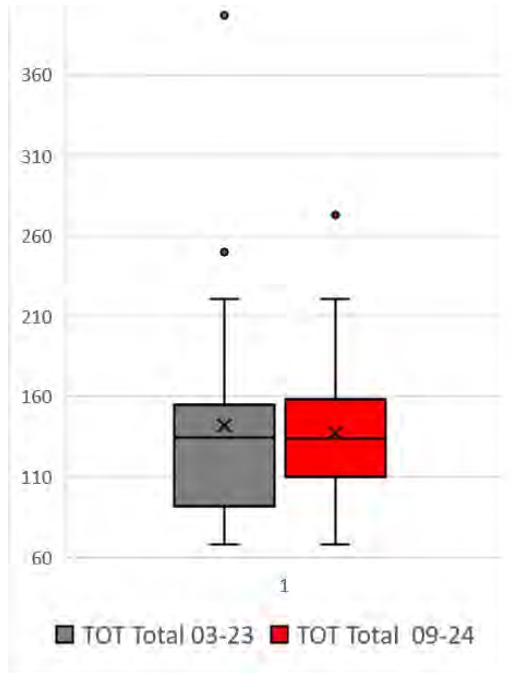
Filename: Country_Metadata_on_Food_Waste_measurement.docx

20% change justification in quality reports

- Variations greater than 20% by food stage require mandatory explanation (COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/2000, Annex, section B):
- **Currently, all countries that have submitted 2021 and 2022 data have justified 20% tonnage difference**

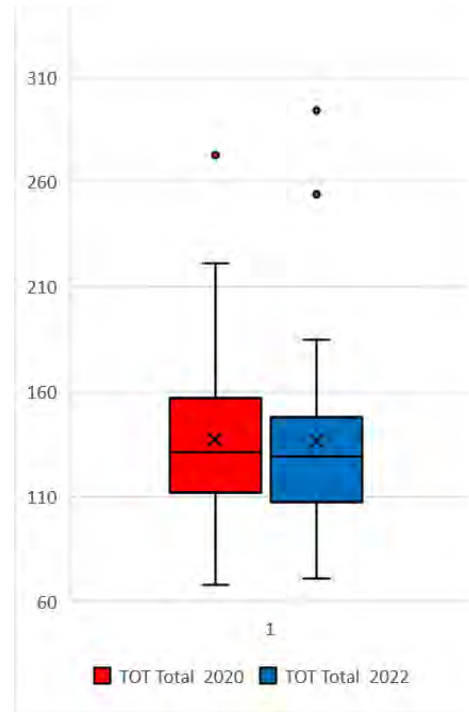
Data comparability

Comparability over time – increase of quality



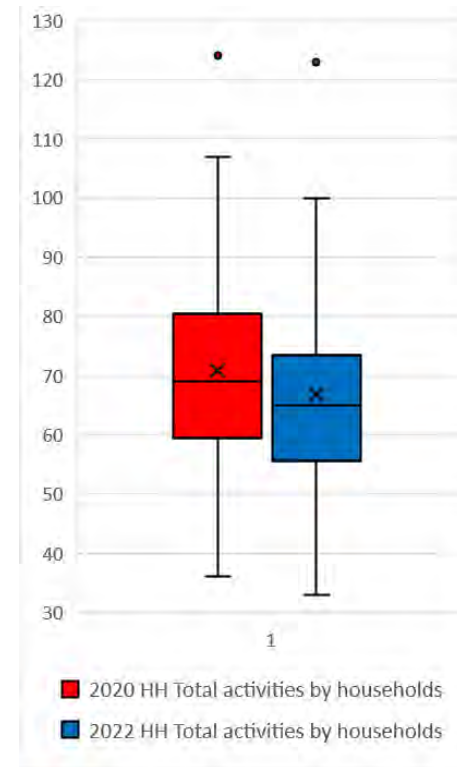
2020 data revisions

Revised data: more concentrated distribution



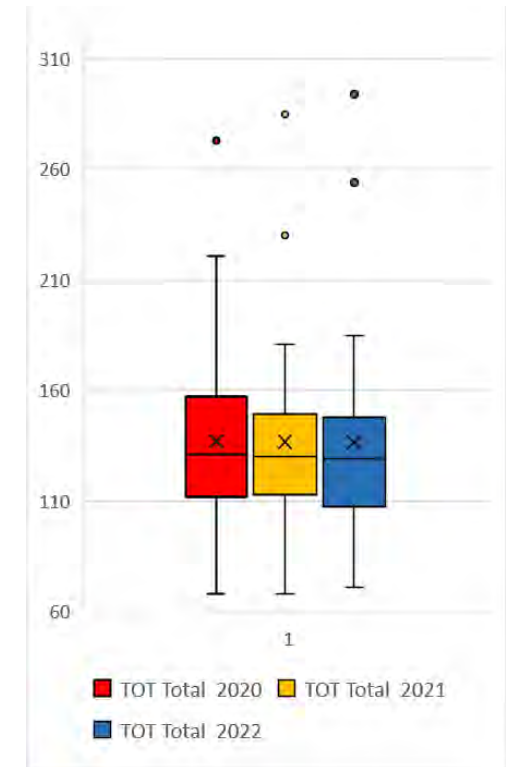
2022 vs 2020 data

Total food waste, smaller variance in 2022.



2022 vs 2020 - HH

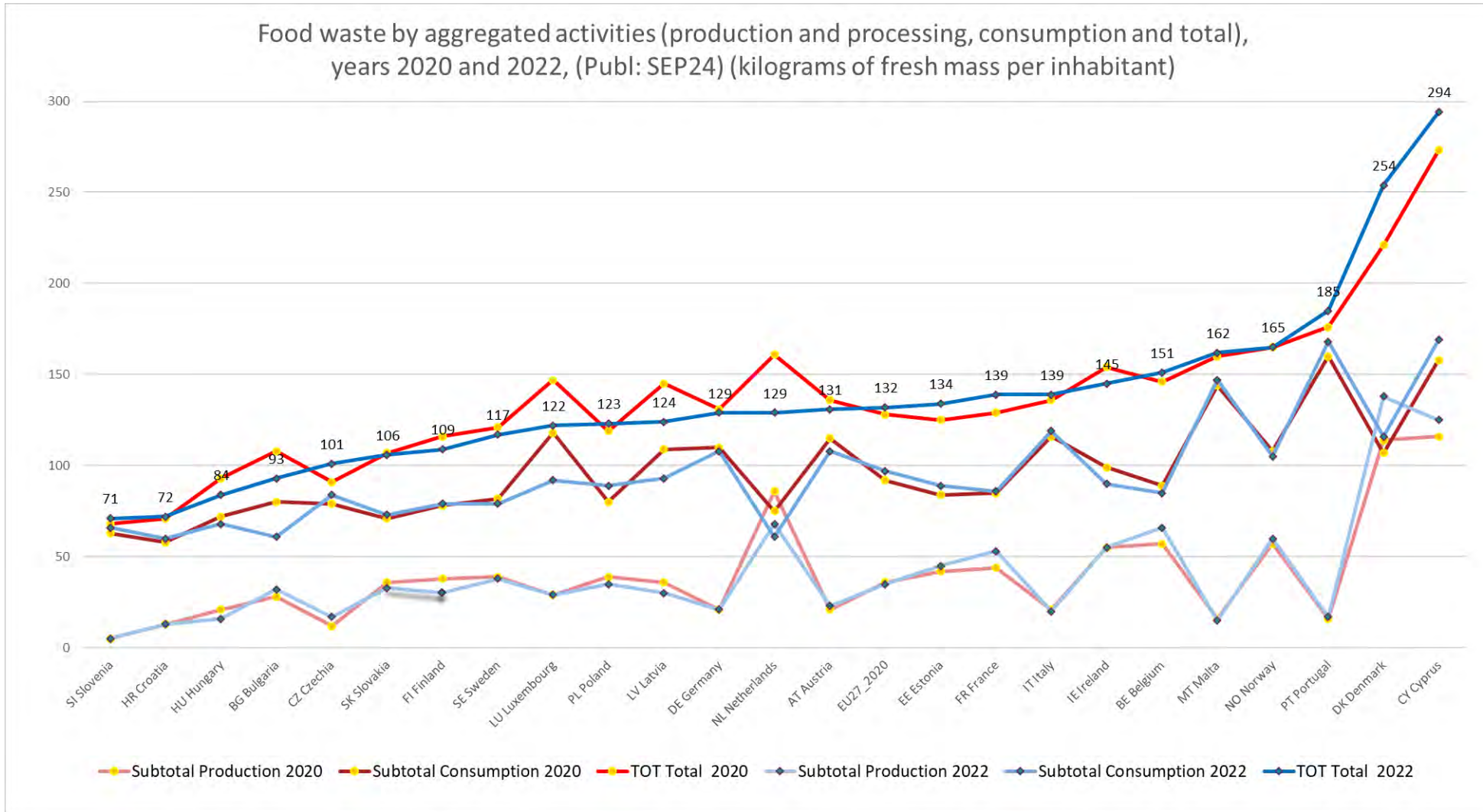
Similar variance, overall reduction (lockdown?)



2020 – 2021- 2022

Reduced variance 2021 and 2022

Comparability between MSs



Data comparability – take away messages



- 2020 data has improved with revisions
- Data comparability increased for 2021 and 2022 data → stabilized quality
- Data is comparable between countries, with outliers
- Voluntary metadata clarifies methods used by MSs and economic sectors

Issues

Areas for improvement

- Missing or exclusion of reporting subsectors (no response to survey, no identification of potential respondents, costs of inclusions of small businesses)
- Low response rate, errors in data entry due to **lack of knowledge of food and food waste definitions**, or discards of respondents classified in the wrong sector
- Use of collected waste amounts (tonnes) in place of tonnes of fresh mass in some MSs and/or sectors
- Sample sizes seem small in some MSs – assessment of statistical error
- Voluntary data (edible, wastewaters, food donation and use for animal feed):
 - very low response rate
 - high volatility

Questions?

Thank you



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Slides 5-7 and 16, source: Eurostat

