



Food waste data studies in Ireland



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NATIONAL WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME
Preventing Waste, Driving the Circular Economy



Food Waste data studies in Ireland

- ▶ Establish reporting methodologies & gap analysis
- ▶ Test methodologies & approaches
- ▶ Studies to address data gaps and improve granularity
- ▶ Collaboration between food waste prevention team and waste statistics teams within EPA



Food Waste data in Ireland

- ▶ How much food do we waste in Ireland:

~1 million* tonnes per annum

- ▶ current best estimate (2018 data)
- ▶ derived from current national waste statistics reporting structures
- ▶ data quality has varying levels of confidence



Summary of Food Waste in Ireland 2018

Sector	Tonnes of food waste	Reporting Status
Primary Production	???	●
Process and Manufacturing	497,448	●
Retail and Distribution	100,382	●
Restaurants and Food Service	203,342	●
Households	252,501	●



Food Waste data studies

- ▶ Commercial food waste study (completed 2019)
- ▶ Processing & manufacturing study – develop a finer scale understanding of available data and identify additional data sources (end 2020)
- ▶ Efficient Food – identify potential data sources and improve knowledge of food loss and waste in primary production (Spring 2021)



Commercial Food Waste

303,000 tonnes

<https://foodwastecharter.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CTC-Research-Report-EPA-282.pdf>



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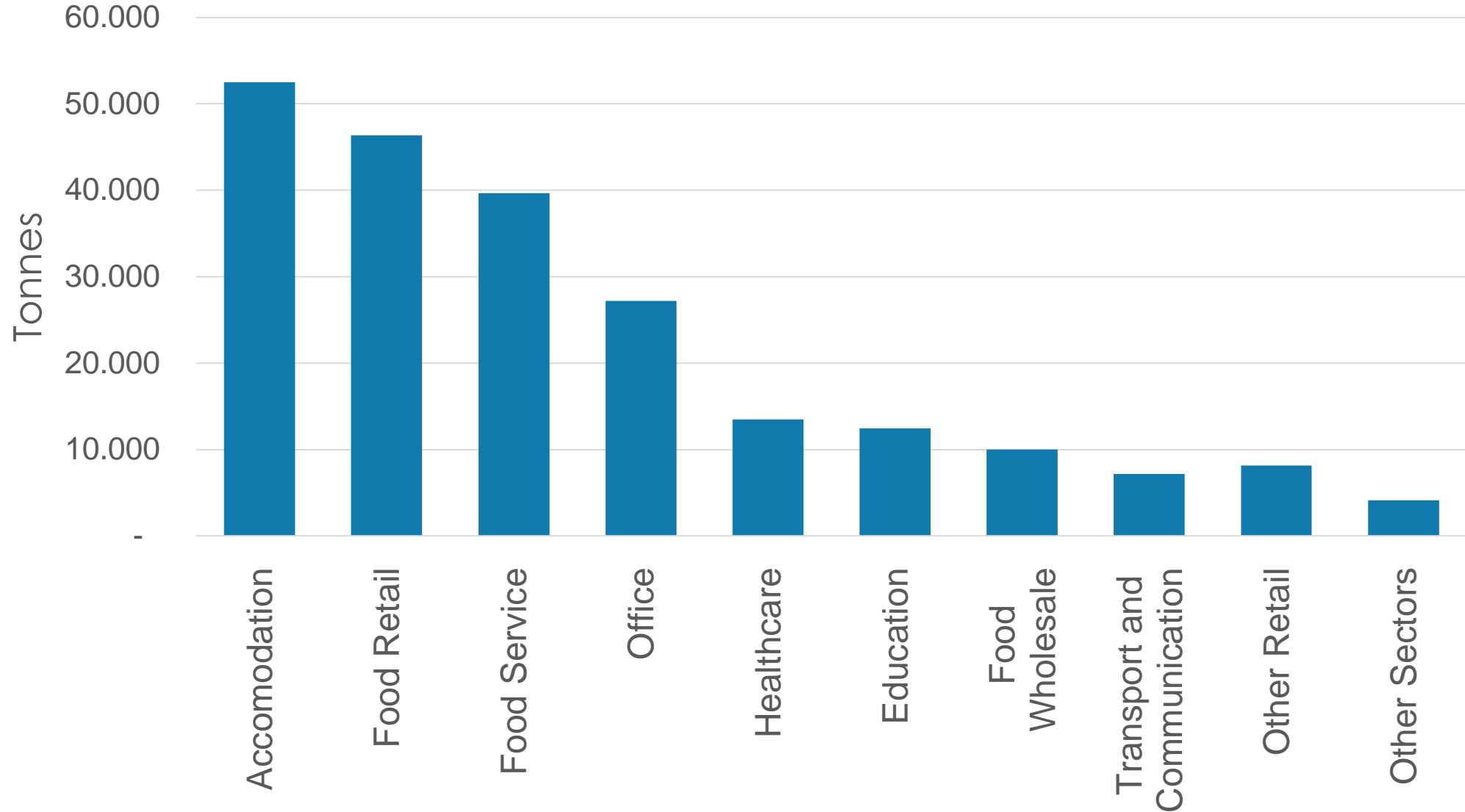
About the project

Funded through EPA Research Programme 2014-2020

Project aimed to:

- ▶ identify food waste-generating sectors
- ▶ investigate the quantity, character and sources of food waste
- ▶ compile best practice
- ▶ develop sectoral benchmarks

Commercial Food Waste - sectors



Sub-sectors

Food Service	Food Retail
Hotels – Daily Service – Functions/Events	Supermarkets
Full-service Restaurants	Convenience
Quick-service Restaurants	With Serve-over
Workplace Canteens	Without Serve-over



Results: Hotels – daily service

Benchmark: 360 g per cover



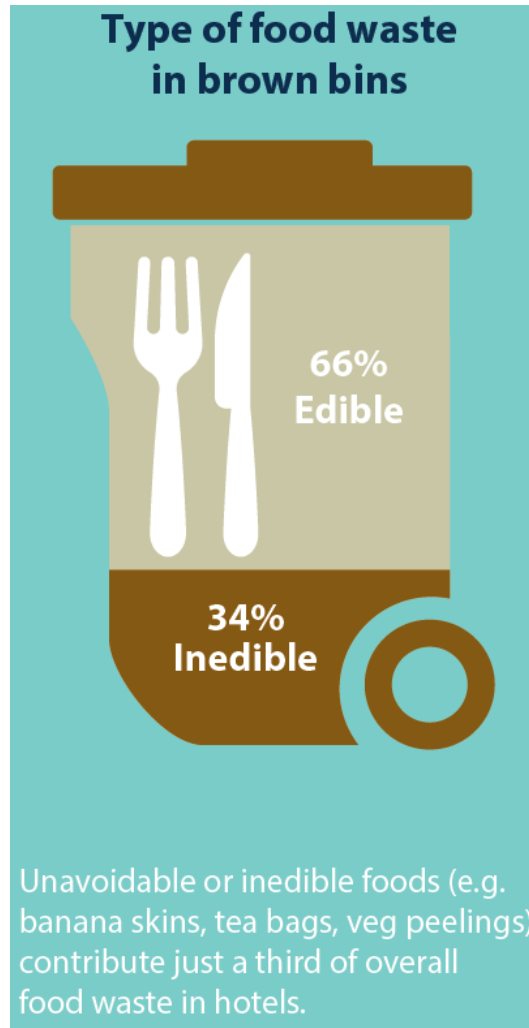
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38%



Results: Hotels – daily service



Results: Hotels – functions

Benchmark: 530 g per cover



15%

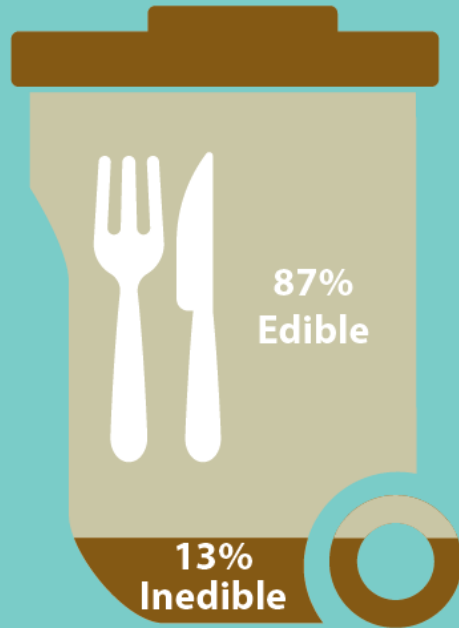
32%

53%



Results: Hotels – functions

Type of food waste in brown bins



Unavoidable or inedible foods (e.g. banana skins, tea bags, veg peelings) contribute just 13% to overall food waste in hotels.

Top four types of avoidable food waste



Cost per kg of food waste in hotels

€3.38 per kg*



* This is based on purchasing cost alone. It gives a zero value to the inedible fraction of food waste.

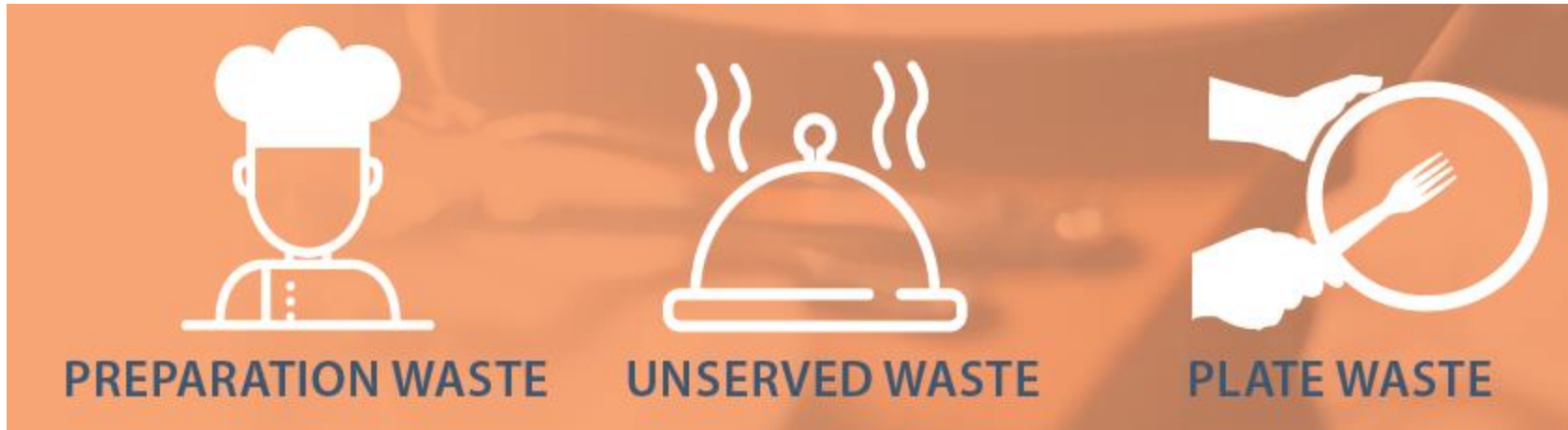


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Results: Restaurants – full service

Benchmark: 263 g per cover



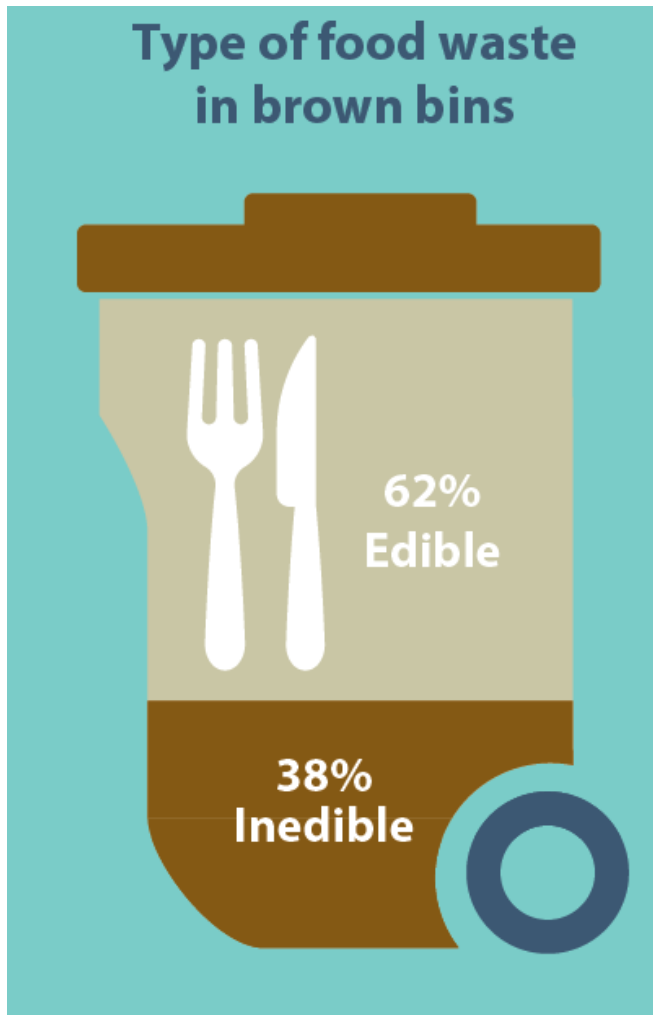
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41%



Results: Restaurants – full service



Results: Restaurants – quick service

Benchmark: 146 g per cover



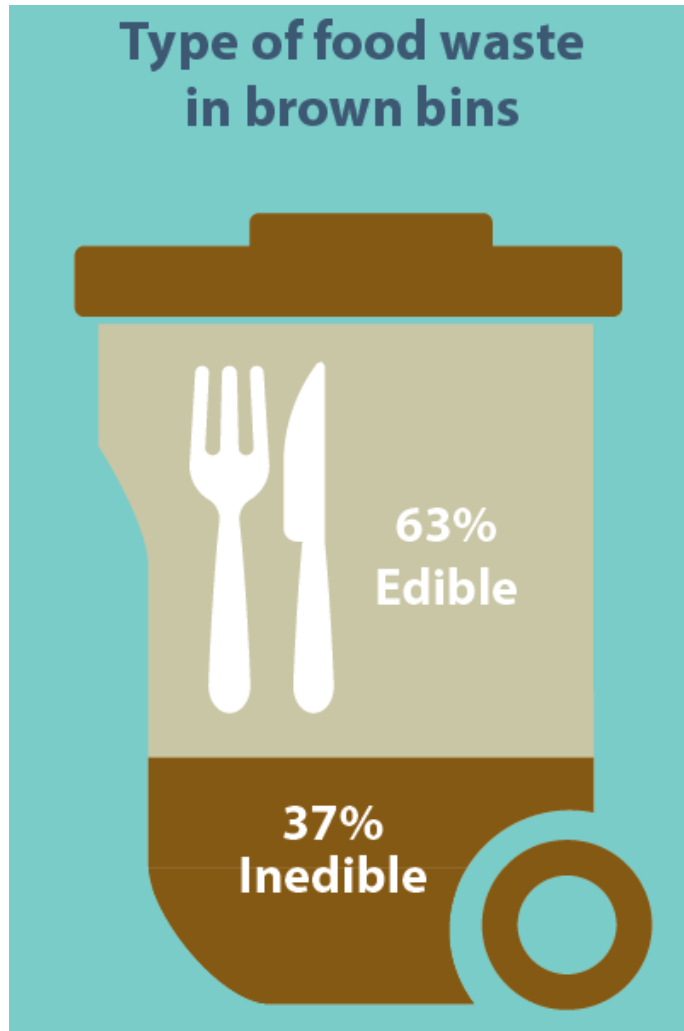
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Results: Restaurants – quick service



Results: workplace canteens

Benchmark: 78 g per cover



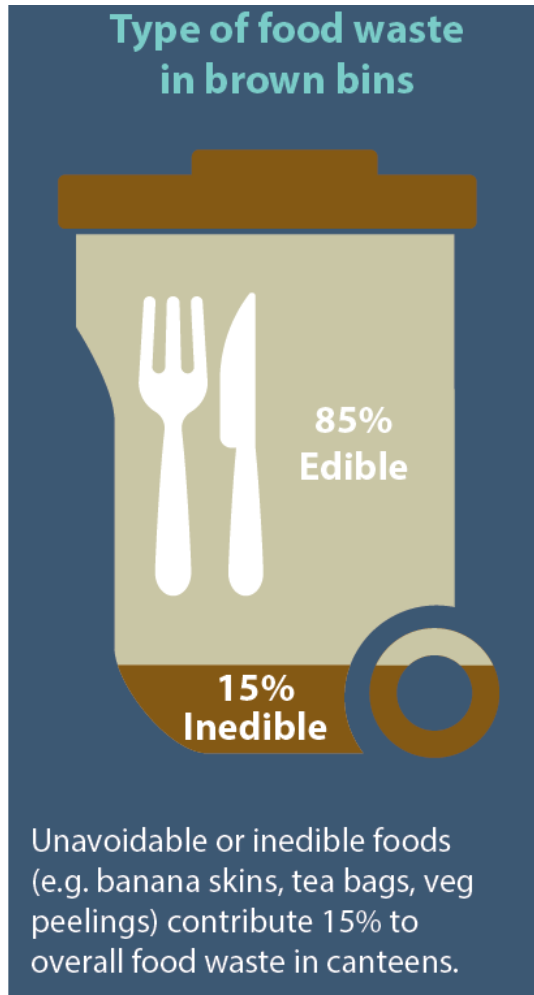
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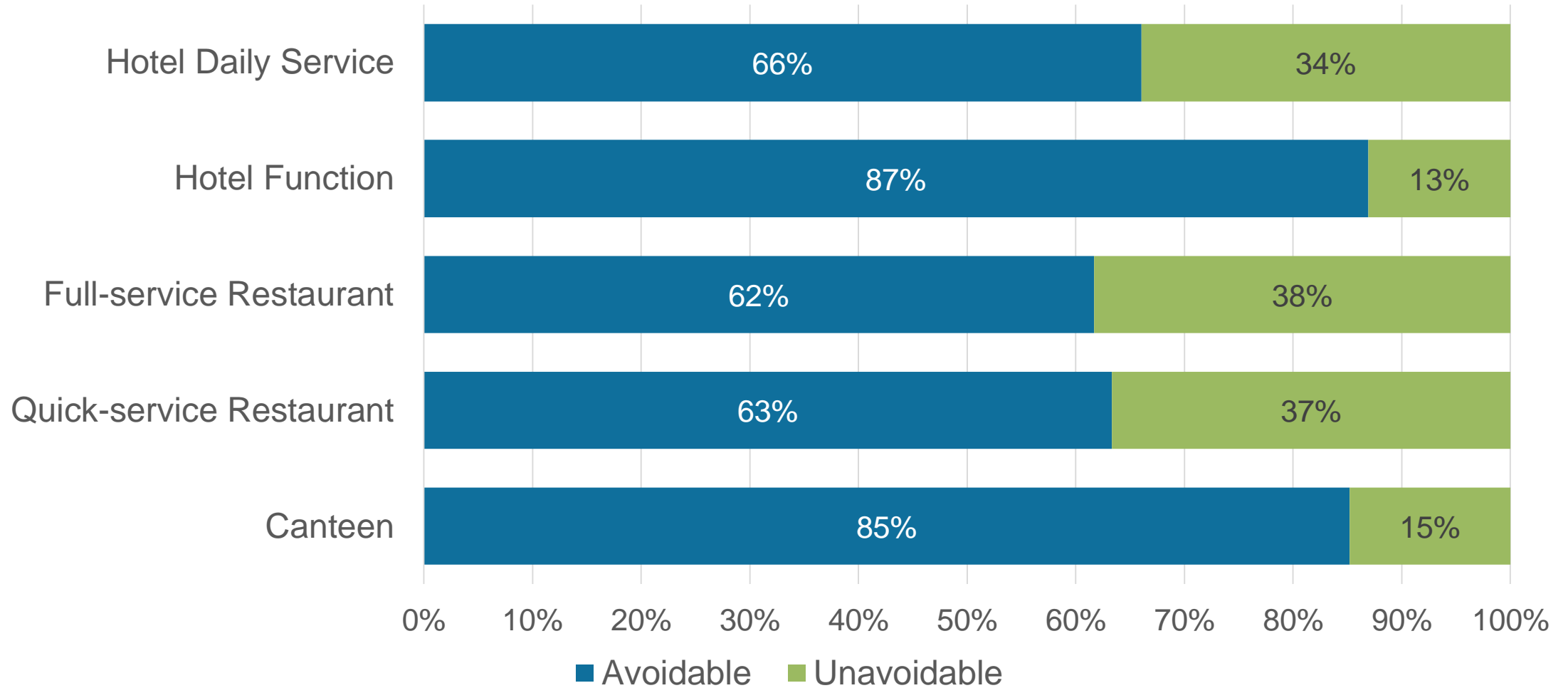
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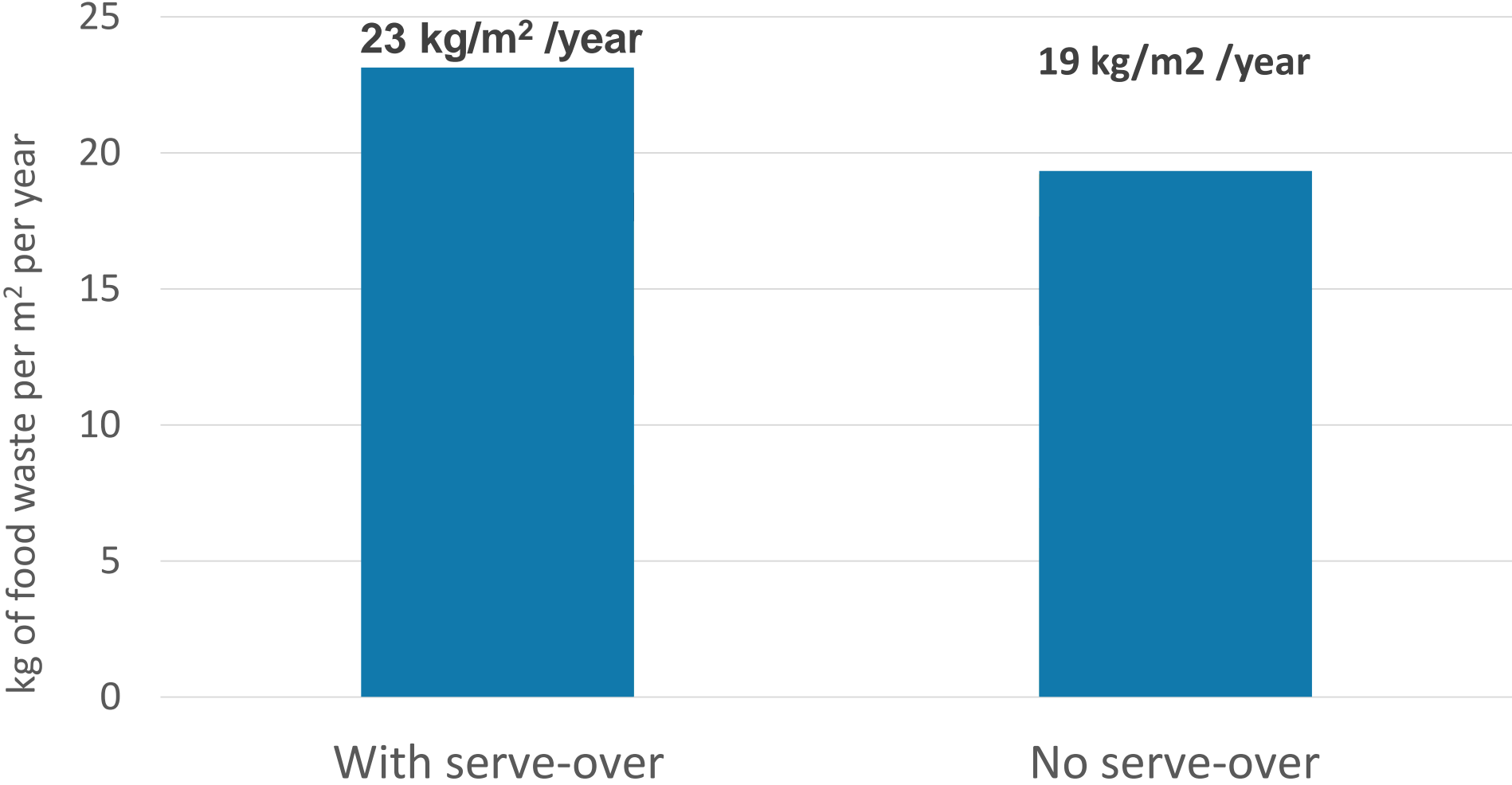
Results: workplace canteens



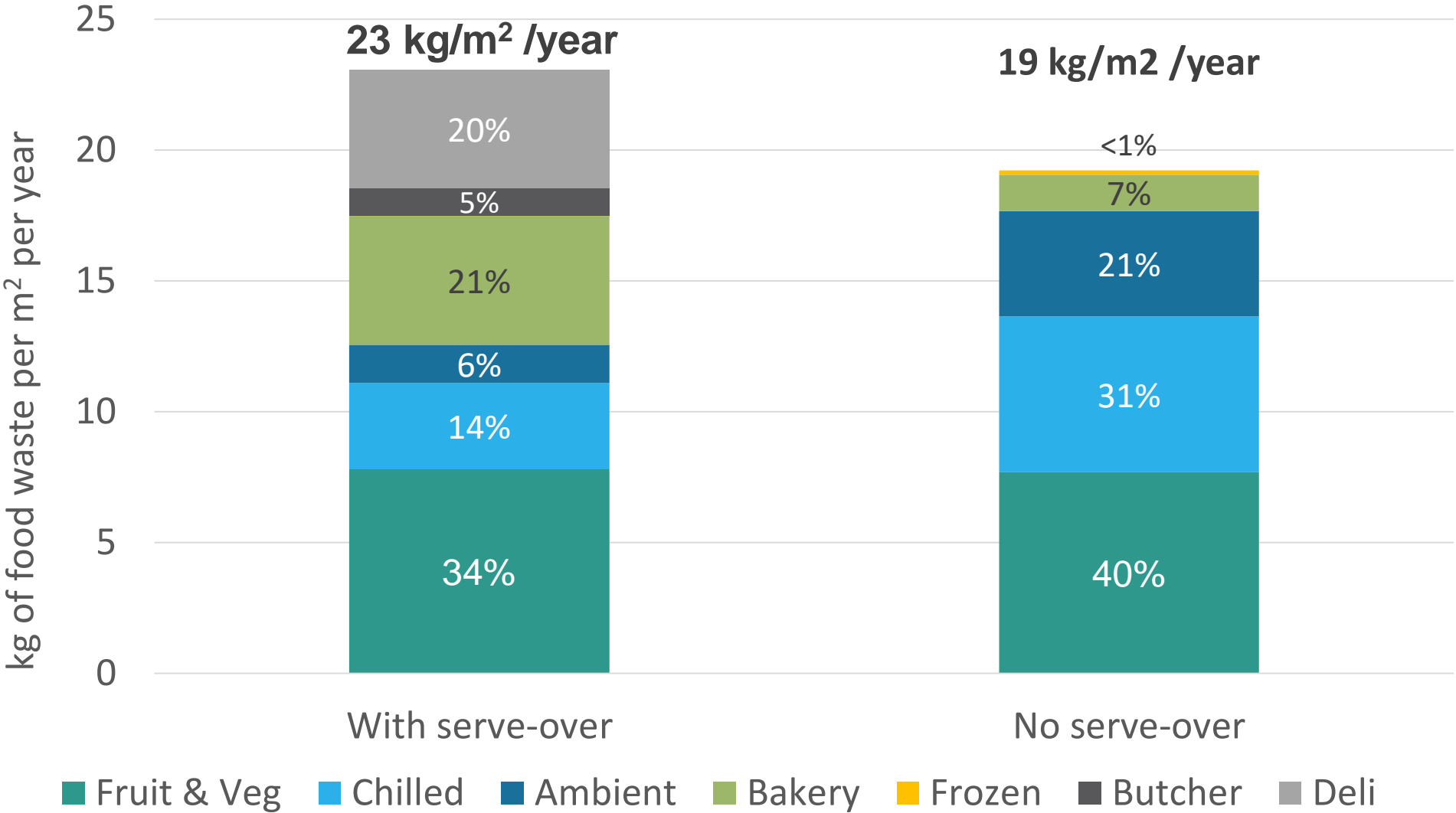
Avoidable and Unavoidable Food Waste



Food Retail Results



Food Retail Results



Main conclusions

- ▶ Hotels have the highest rate of food waste
- ▶ Plate waste is the largest contributor
- ▶ Food waste is costing €2.73 - €3.50 per kg
- ▶ Fruit and veg most wasted food in retail
- ▶ Serve-over offerings increase food waste benchmark



Food Waste data in Ireland – next steps

- ▶ Continue to improve granularity & quality of data
 - ▶ Identify additional data sources
 - ▶ Research & studies to address data gaps (compatible with national methodologies)
- ▶ Publish a first statement on Ireland's food waste
- ▶ Retail sector data project (Food Waste Charter)
- ▶ Ensure data and evidence underpins food waste prevention planning and monitoring
- ▶ National reporting!



Further information:

- ▶ <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/foodwasteprevention/>
- ▶ <http://foodwastecharter.ie>
(Resources section for report, fact sheets, guidance)

