

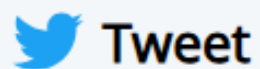


Reporting on food waste at EU level

Eurostat

FOOD LOSS AND WASTE MONITORING SUB-GROUP

Online, 25 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

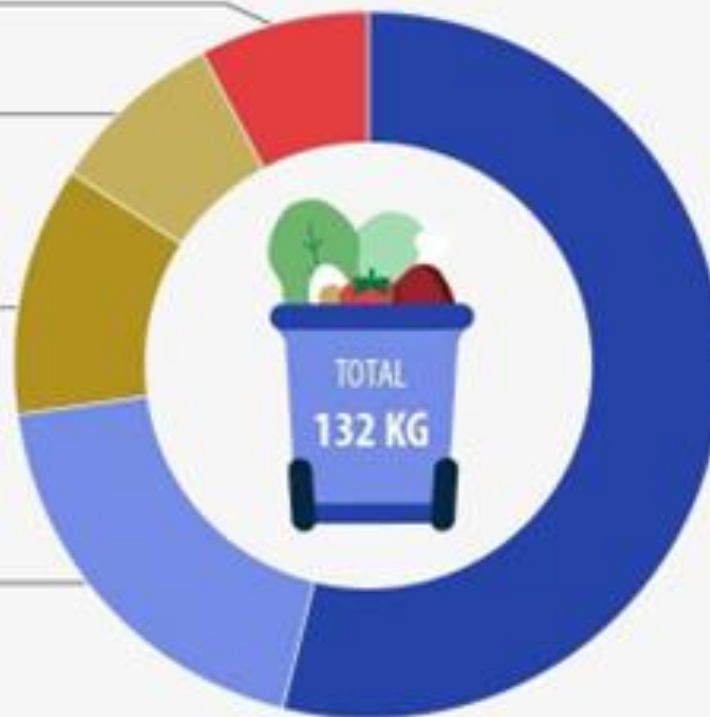
11 KG

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

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>

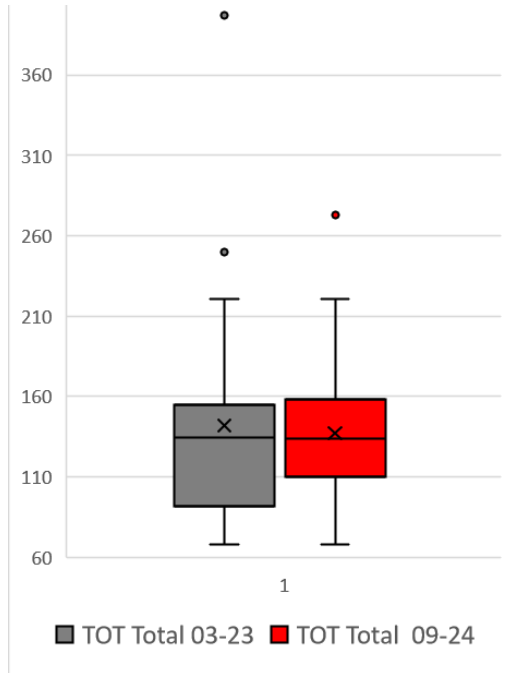
Filename: Country_Metadata_on_Food_Waste_measurement.docx

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**

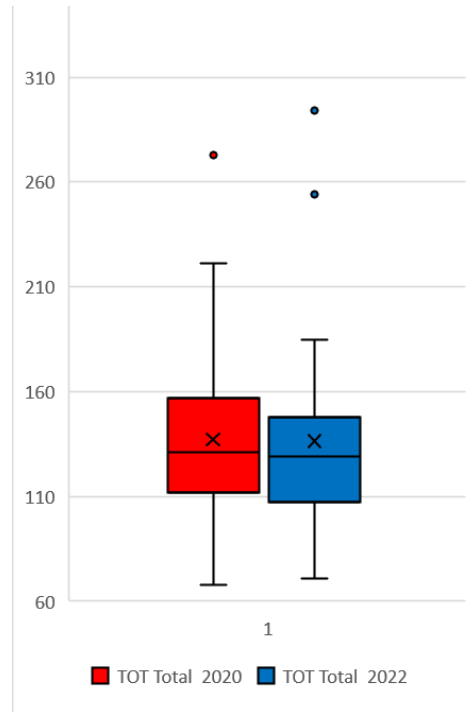
Data comparability

Comparability over time – increase of quality



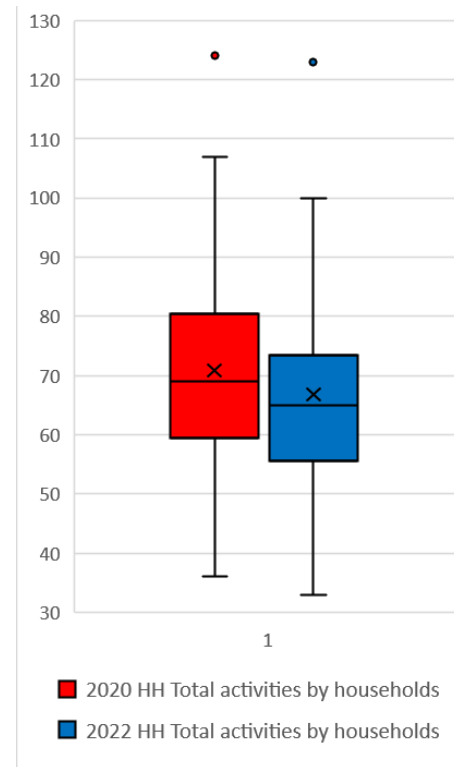
2020 data revisions

Revised data: more concentrated distribution



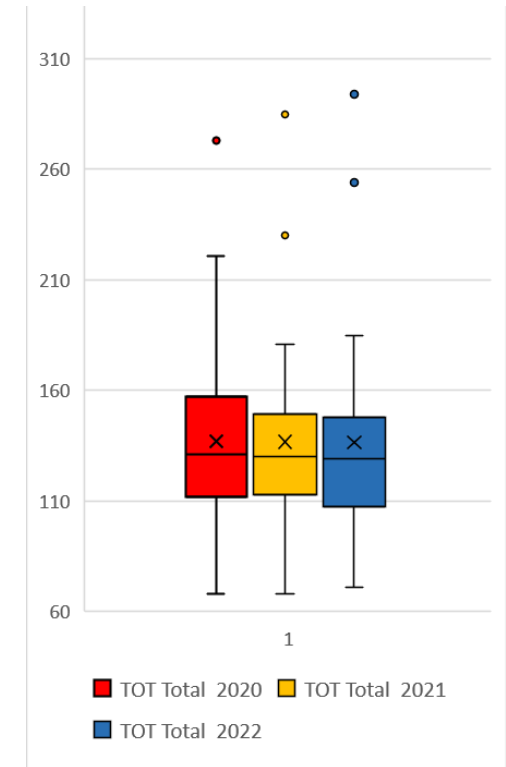
2022 vs 2020 data

Total food waste, smaller variance in 2022.



2022 vs 2020 - HH

Similar variance, overall reduction (lockdown?)

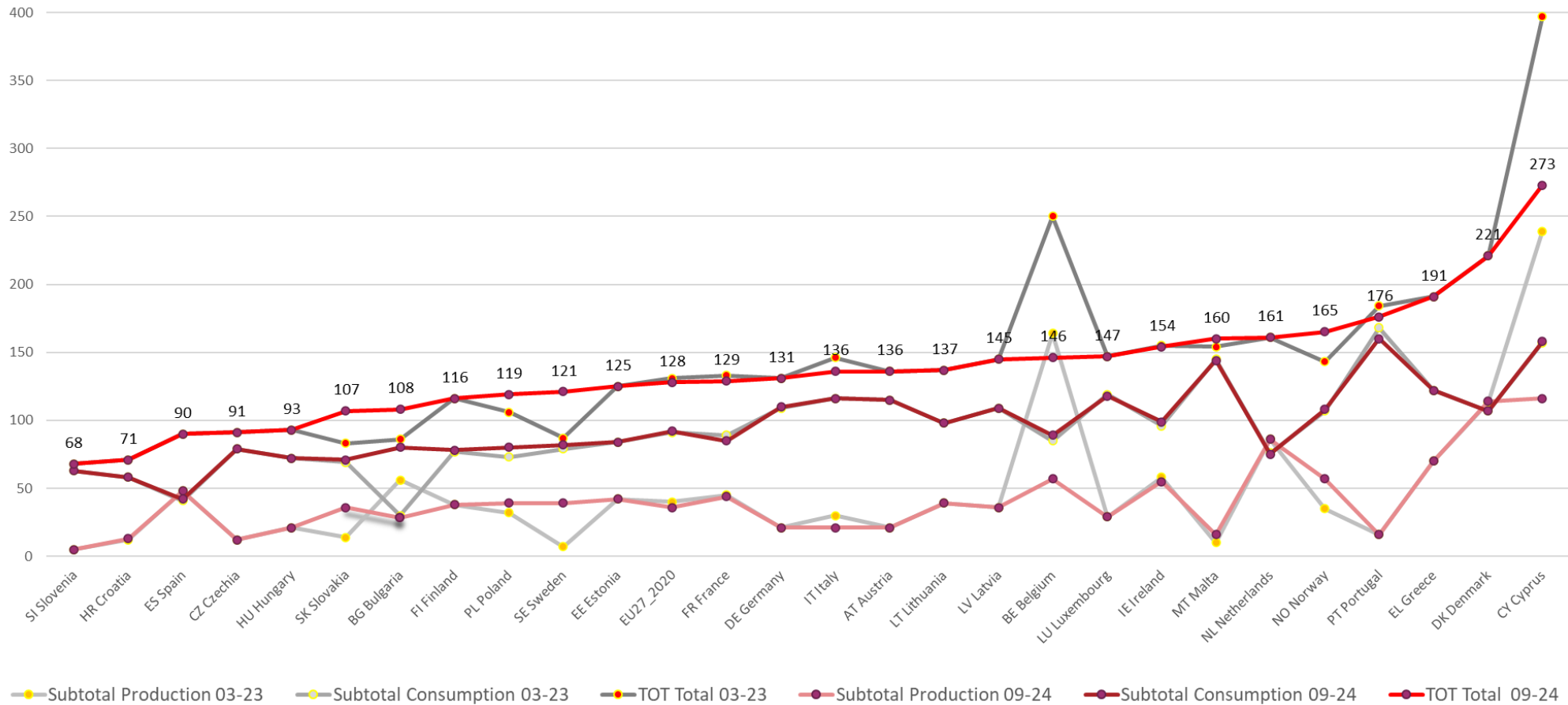


2020 – 2021- 2022

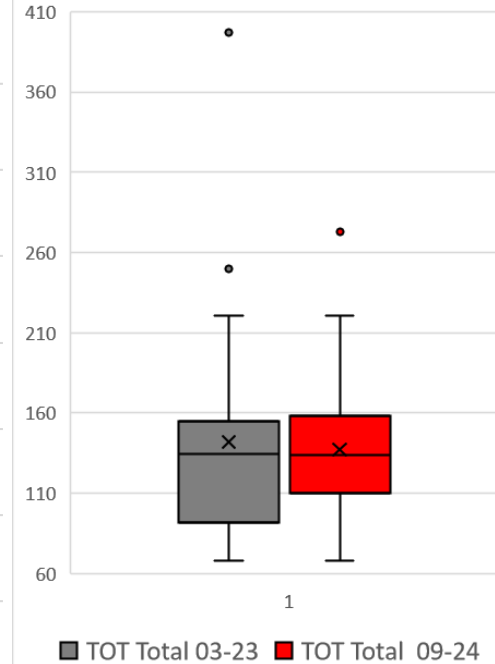
Reduced variance 2021 and 2022

Comparison of 2020 data revisions (publication SEP24 versus MAR23)

Comparison of year 2020 revisions of food waste by aggregated activities (production and processing, consumption and total), by publication (SEP24 vs MAR23) (kilograms of fresh mass per inhabitant)

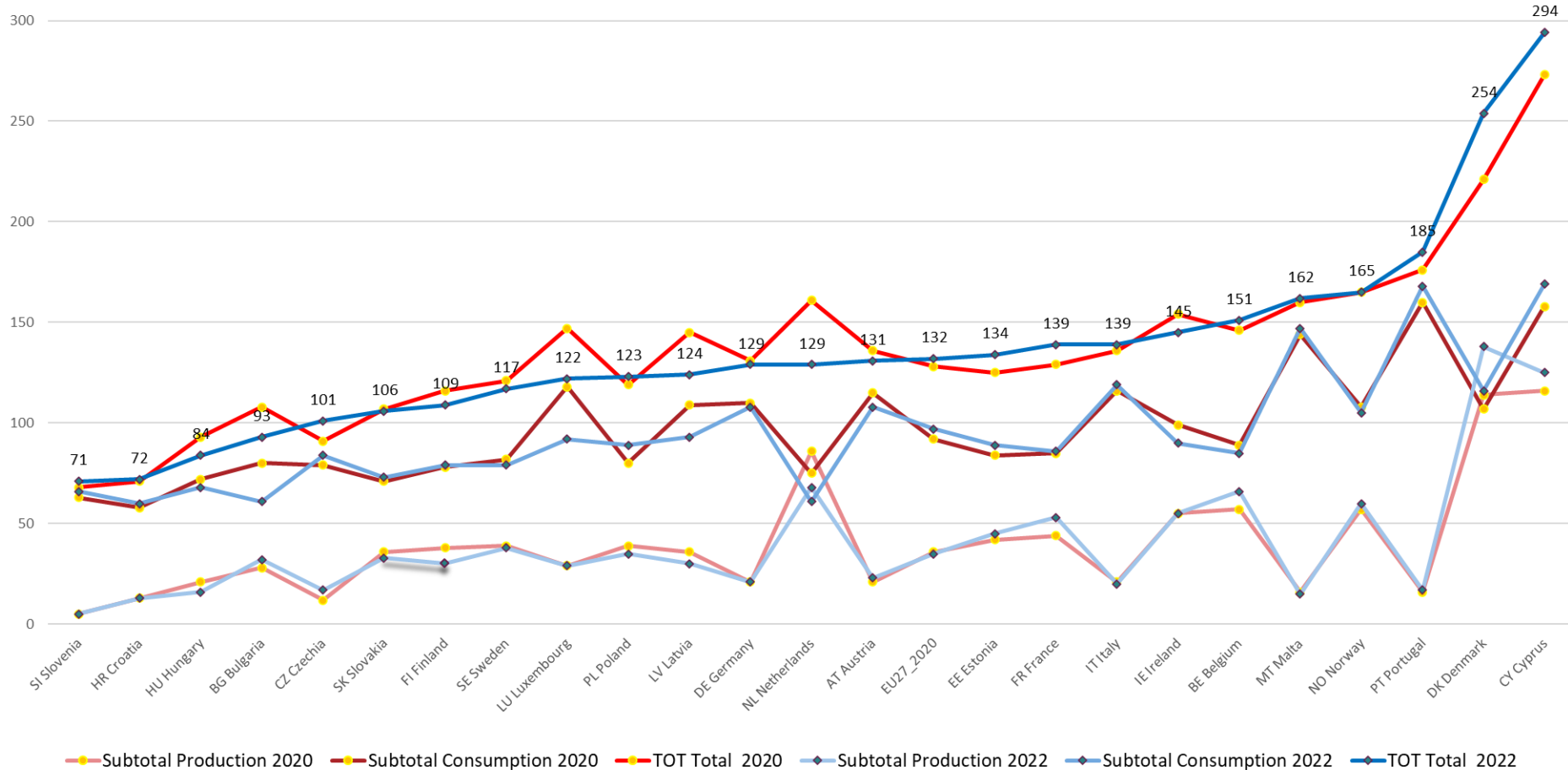


Distribution of total food waste of 2020 data, by publication date (revision monitoring)

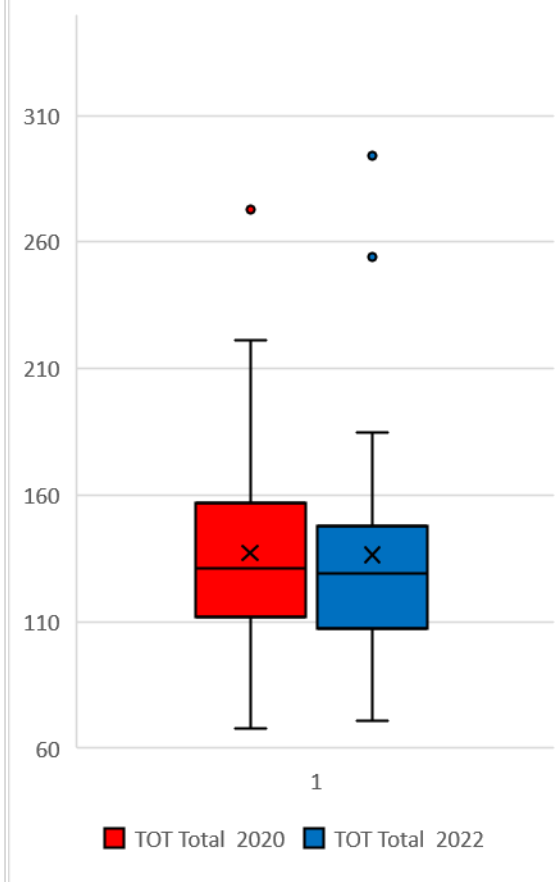


Comparison 2022 versus 2020 data (only submitting countries)

Food waste by aggregated activities (production and processing, consumption and total), years 2020 and 2022, (Publ: SEP24) (kilograms of fresh mass per inhabitant)

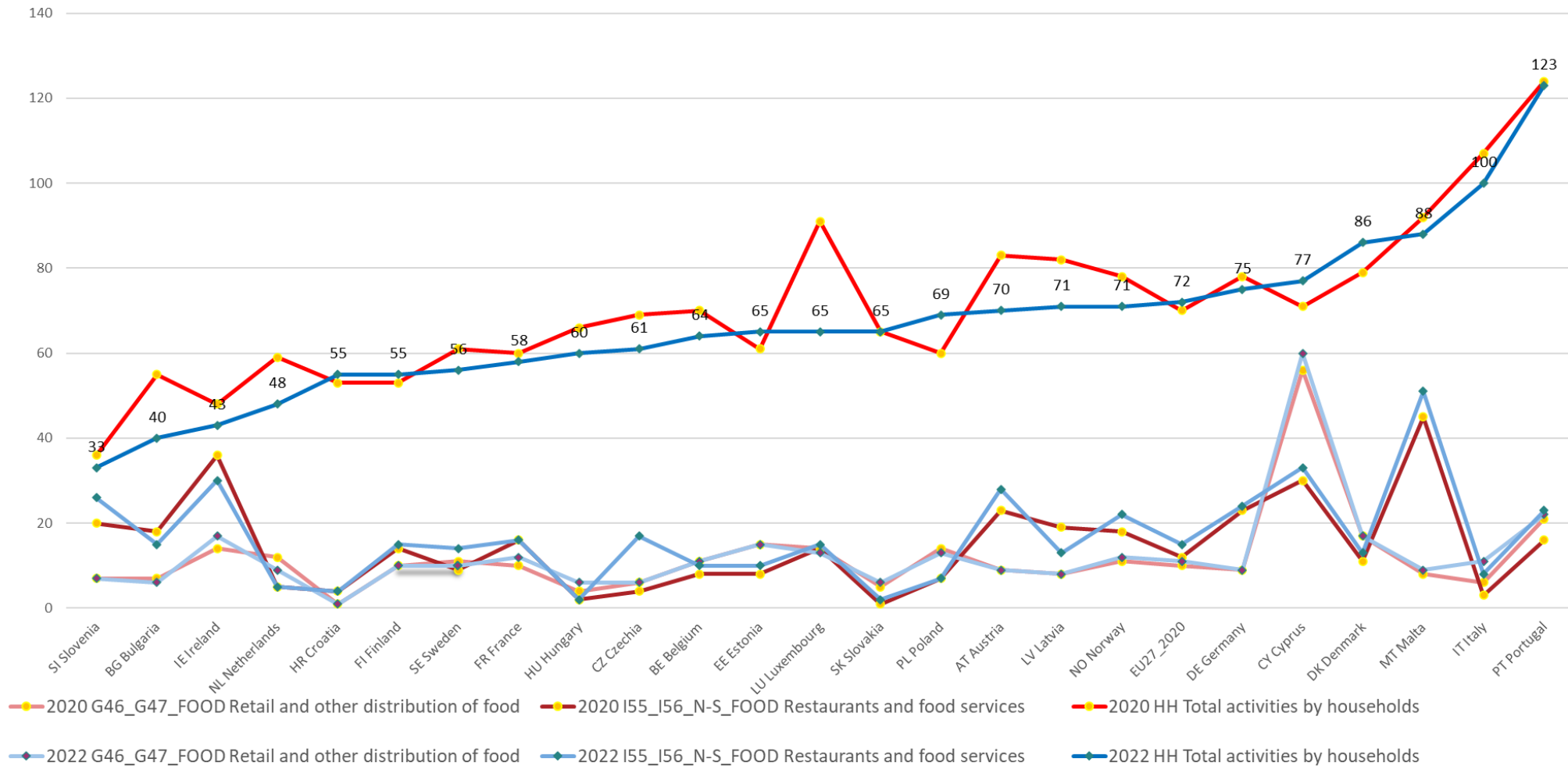


Distribution of food waste totals, years 2020 and 2022

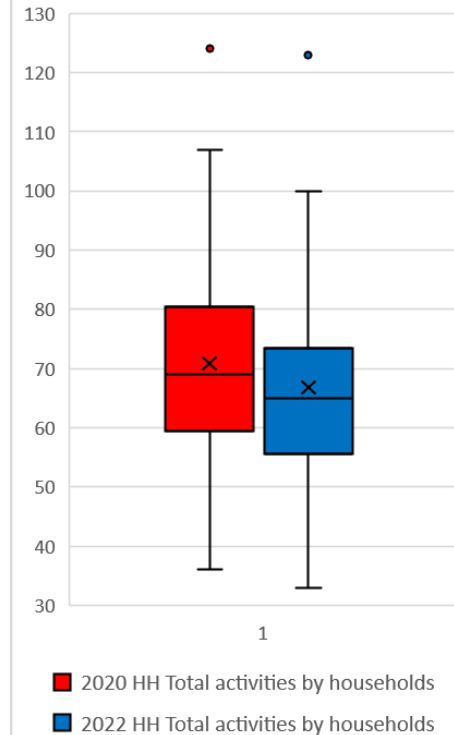


Comparison 2022 versus 2020 data consumption activities (only submitting countries)

Food waste by consumption activities, years 2020 and 2022, (Publ: SEP24)
(kilograms of fresh mass per inhabitant)

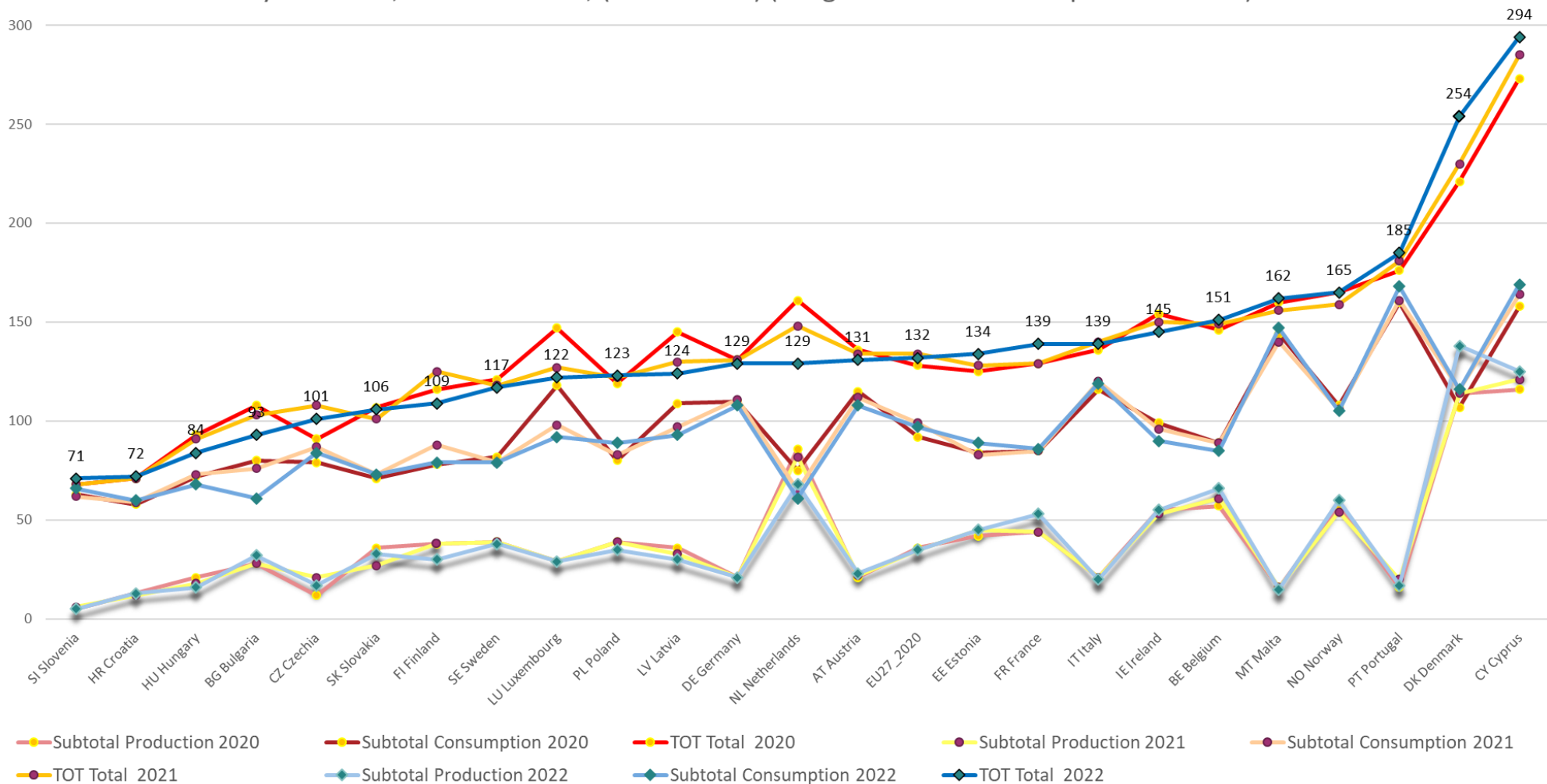


Distribution of HH food waste, years 2020 and 2022

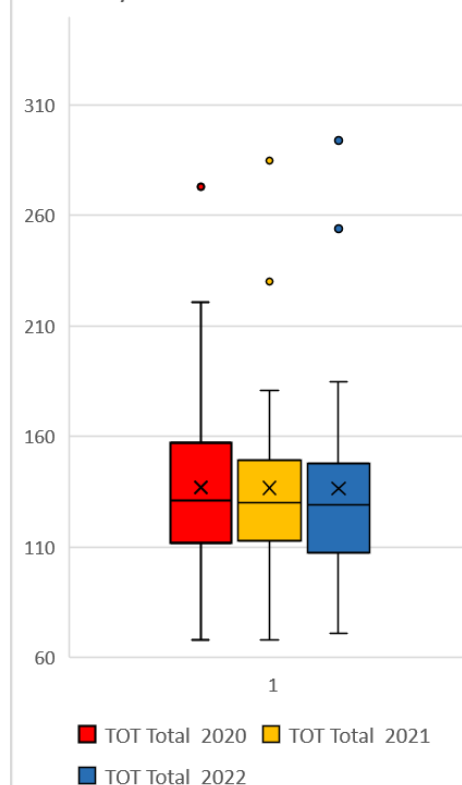


Comparison 2022, 2021 and 2020 data (only submitting countries)

Food waste by aggregated activities (production and processing, consumption and total), years 2020, 2021 and 2022, (Publ: SEP24) (kilograms of fresh mass per inhabitant)



Distribution of total food waste, years 2020 and 2022



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 – from QRs

- 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



Food waste data collection 2024 (RY2022): data gathering, validation and publication process

Food waste data collections 2024 (reference year 2022) was the third food waste reporting obligation (according to COM DD 2019/1597 EC and COM ID 2019/2000 EC):

- Launch of food waste data collection 2024 for reference year 2022: 31 May 2024 (submission deadline 30 June 2024)
- 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)**
- IS reported for the first time (2022 data).
- All submitting countries measured in tonnes of fresh mass and provided full breakdown by NACE Rev2 activities (*Primary production, Processing and manufacturing, Retail and other distribution of food, Restaurants and food services, Households*)
- Most of the countries reported according to the methodologies set out in ANNEX III of DD 2019/1597 EC
- Publication of EU-level statistics: RY2022 data released in Q3 (27SEP2024, as International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste was on Sunday 29SEP2024) in Eurostat dissemination database and in Statistic Explained article; no second publication is foreseen
- **NEW: voluntary metadata provided by 15 MS by mid September 2024 + 1 MS in mid October 2024 (under check)**

Food waste data collection 2024 (RY2022): timeliness

Timeliness of **RY2022 (first submission)** was well performing compared to first submission for RY2021 and RY2020 (though the previous year were still well performing for a new data collection)

Follow-up of late countries: automatic reminders sent on 1 July and 8 July 2024, official reminders sent on 15 July and 26 August 2024.

Countries that preannounced delay had transmitted on time for the publication.

2 MSs have not yet reported 2022 data, 1 MS have not reported 2021 and 2022 data, 1 have not reported 2020, 2021 and 2022 data;

Reporting timeliness has improved compared to the previous data collection (year 2023 for RY 2021), as by the time of RY 2021 publication (29SEP2023) 6 MS did not report RY2021 and 1 MS did not report RY 2021 and 2020.

Some countries revised 2020 and 2021 data; it might be that missing countries are performing further analysis before the transmission of reference year 2022 and 2021.

Food waste data collection 2024 new voluntary metadata: how to browse the website

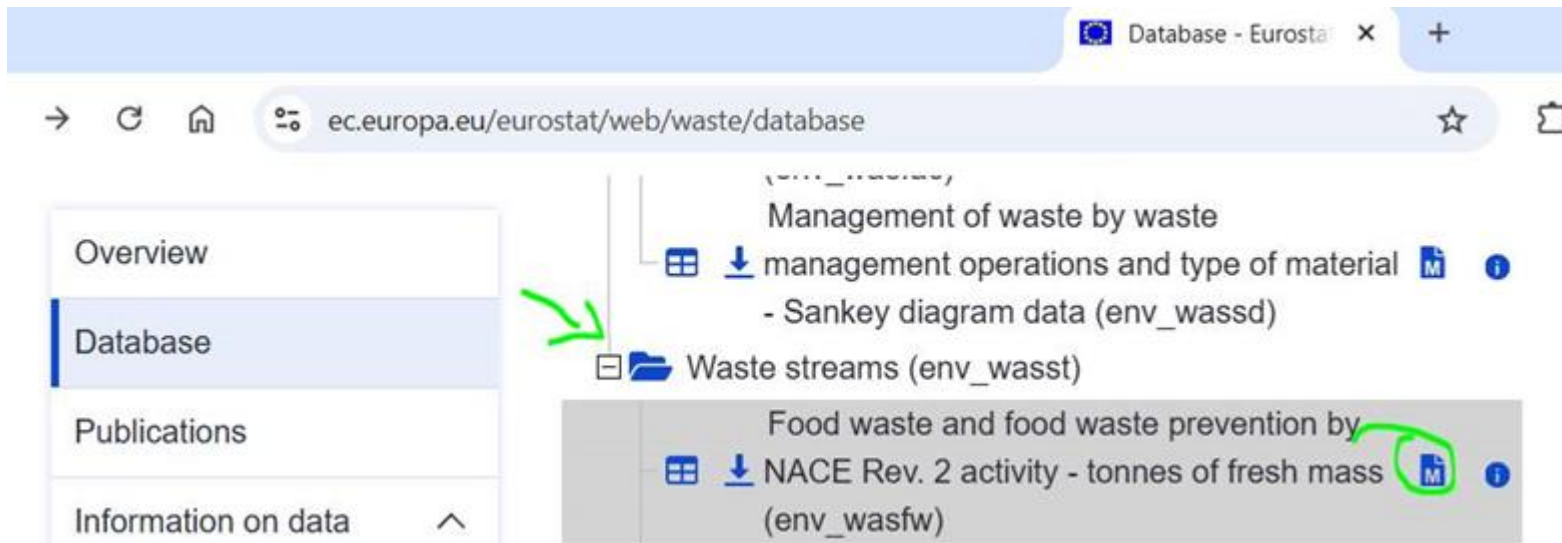
How to access from Eurostat website:

You can find it by browsing to the M on env_wasfw (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/waste/database>, picture below) or direct link (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/env_wasfw_esms.htm), scrolling then the document down to section 19, the last sentence with the Circabc folder link:

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

Country_Metadata_on_Food_Waste_measurement_V20240927.docx

Please notice that information on the metadata documents can be cited as published and publicly available.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/waste/database. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Overview, Database (highlighted), Publications, and Information on data. The main content area displays a tree structure of data categories. A green arrow points to the 'Waste streams (env_wasst)' folder, which is expanded to show two sub-items: 'Food waste and food waste prevention by NACE Rev. 2 activity - tonnes of fresh mass (env_wasfw)' and 'management operations and type of material - Sankey diagram data (env_wassd)'. The 'env_wasfw' item is highlighted with a green box and a green circle around its icon.

Data analysis – Quality Report information

- Issues identified by the countries during the reporting
- Issues identified during validation

Food waste: QR 7.2 highlight for 20% difference compared to the previous year

- Variations greater than 20% by food stage require mandatory explanation (COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/2000, Annex, section B):

7.2. Explanation of tonnage difference (if applicable)

Please explain the causes of the tonnage difference (which stages of the food supply chain, sectors or estimates have caused the difference, and what the underlying cause is) where the variation is greater than 20 % compared to the data submitted for the previous reporting year.

- Eurostat has to inform DG SANTE about missing mandatory information
- It applies from reference year 2021. Previous reference years are prefilled by Eurostat; a pre-validation macro highlights missing justifications (by stage).
- **Currently, all countries that have submitted 2021 and 2022 data have justified 20% tonnage difference**

Food waste

Data quality issues identified by the countries and reported in the quality report

- Missing or exclusion of reporting subsectors (no response to survey, no identification of potential respondents, costs of inclusions of small businesses)
- Low share of respondents from survey, discards of respondents **lacking knowledge of food and food waste definitions**, or discards of respondents unfitting the sectors (country validation and auditing procedure of respondent's applicable sector)
- Some countries informed Eurostat on the risk of underestimation as collected waste amounts (tonnes) in place of tonnes of fresh mass
- Covid related 2020 special issues (mainly the lockdown consequences on restaurants and canteens)
- **Recommendation: if not highlighted in former years quality reports, please inform Eurostat in the most recent reference year (i.e. 2022) QR section 7.3 of any problem, indicating also the concerned years**
- **Recommendation: please highlight in section 7.2 any methodological change/improvement, even in the case that it has not evidenced a variation higher than 20%, so that Eurostat can verify sensitivity to methodological changes**

Questions?

Thank you



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Slide 03: photo, source: pixabay.com; Slide 10: photo, source: pixabay.com