

FOOD WASTE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EU PLATFORM ON FOOD LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
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AMOUNT OF FOOD WASTE

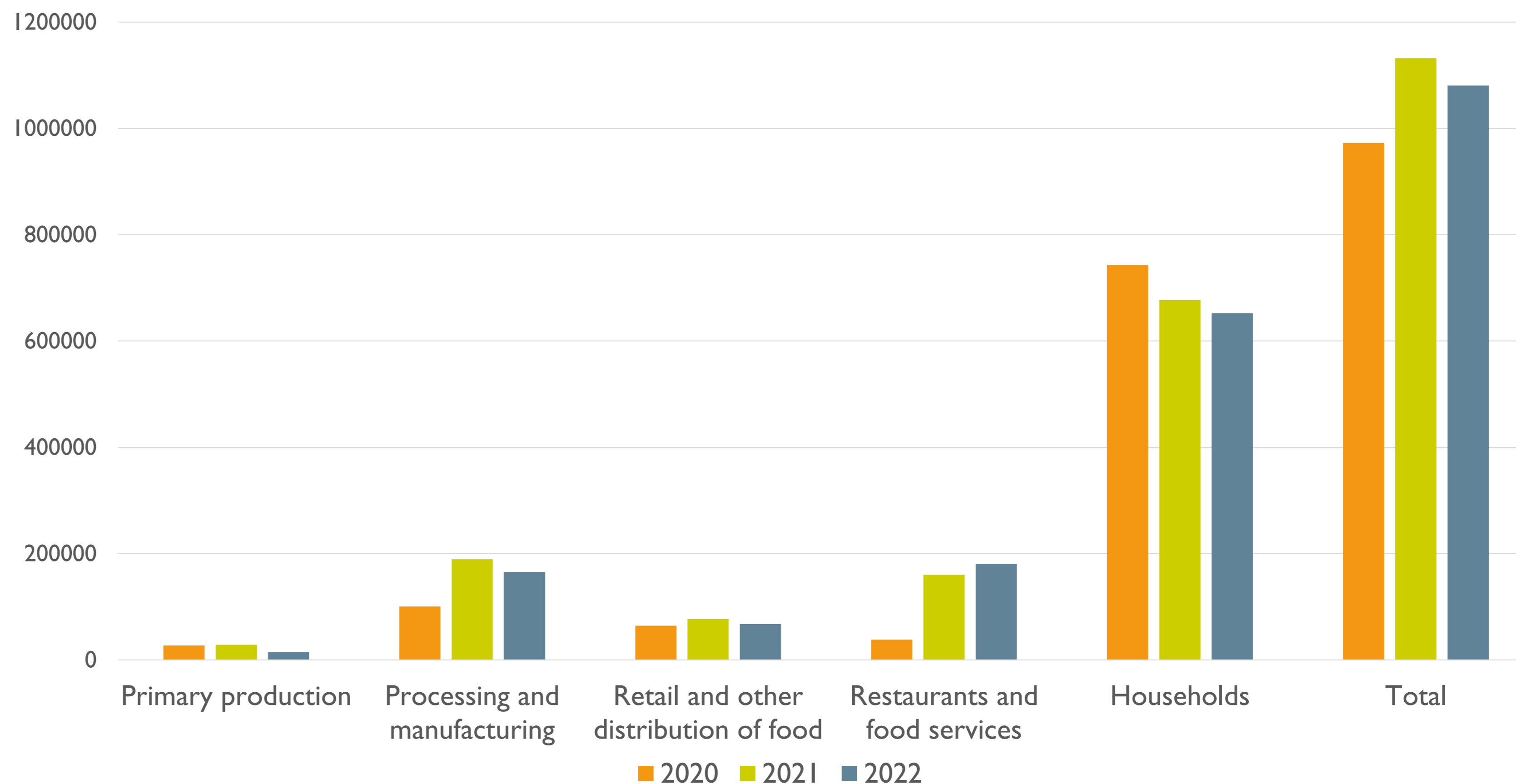
■ The total amount of food waste in the Czech Republic:

■ For 2020: 972 445 tonnes

■ For 2021: 1 131 906 tonnes

■ For 2022: 1 080 608 tonnes

Trends in food waste



FOOD DONATION

- Act No. 110/1997 Coll. on Food and Tobacco Products (mandatory from 2018)
- Compulsory donation of food according to § 11 (2) of the Act

*"A food business operator who places food on the market in an establishment with a sales area **of more than 400 m²** is **obliged to provide** food that does not comply with the requirements laid down in this Act or in a directly applicable European Union regulation governing food requirements but is safe, **free of charge to a non-profit organisation** that collects food free of charge, stores it and allocates it to humanitarian or charitable organisations that provide food aid to clients of social services; such organisations shall be designated by the Ministry by a decision issued ex officio. This obligation shall not apply to beverages with an alcohol content of more than 0,5 % by volume. The foodstuffs referred to in the first sentence must subsequently be placed on the market only free of charge.'*

- ✓ List of eligible recipients of donated food from more than 50 non-profit organizations - mainly food banks, charities

FOOD DONATION

➤ **Voluntary donation of food** pursuant to Section 11(3) of Act No. 110/1997 Coll.

"Food placed on the market by a food business operator other than the operator referred to in paragraph 2, which does not comply with the requirements laid down in this Act or in a directly applicable regulation of the European Union governing food requirements, but which is safe, may be provided free of charge to a non-profit organisation which collects food free of charge, stores it and allocates it to public benefit legal persons providing food aid; such non-profit organisations shall be designated by the Ministry by a decision issued ex officio. The foodstuffs referred to in the first sentence must subsequently be marketed only free of charge."

- Designed for food producers, farmers, small shops...

GRANT PROGRAMME



- Support for the activities of food banks and other entities that collect food according to Article 11 of Act No. 110/1997.
- In 2016, the **18th Subsidy Programme** was launched **to support the activities of food banks and other entities with a humanitarian focus.**
- Food banks can use the support to rent, renovate and build new warehouses, to equip them with refrigeration and freezing equipment, to purchase vehicles for food collection and, in particular, for overheads such as energy.
- The aim of the support is to help reduce food waste and prevent food waste while supporting the distribution of food to people on the edge of material deprivation who lack adequate access to basic food.
- This is currently the only stable source of public funding for the operation of food banks.
- Under the CAP Strategic Plan Operational Programme's subsidy programmes, farmers and food producers working with food banks were favoured in 2023.

DISH DONATION



- ✔ **Dish** = foods with a high potential risk of microbiological contamination and thus may pose a higher potential health risk to the consumer.
- ✔ **Decree No. 121/2023 Coll. on requirements for dishes** (amendment of 2023 - effective from 1 July 2023).
 - It defines criteria for dish safety, temperatures and conditions for placing dish on the market, microbiological criteria.
 - **Facilitating the possibility of dish donation:**
 - ✔ The amended decree will allow hot dish to be cooled or frozen within the time limit set for its release.
 - ✔ This will allow food service operators to donate surplus hot dish to be refrigerated or frozen.
 - ✔ Such dish can then be donated in a chilled or frozen state, e.g. to charitable food organisations, which can donate them either chilled or frozen (or even reheated and served warm). This will allow surplus dishes to be donated within the time limit for its release other than through food banks.

ONGOING RESEARCH ON FOOD WASTE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Where

- School cafeterias, nursing homes, hospitals
- Households of different types of residence and income levels

Methodology

- Weighing and sorting of residues at production, dispensing and after consumption in institutions
- Municipal waste analysis

Findings

- How portions are dispensed and how much is actually eaten plays a decisive role in schools and hospitals



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THE MAIN CAUSES OF FOOD WASTE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC:

- Over-shopping and improper storage: Households often buy more food than they consume, leading to spoilage and subsequent waste.
- Aesthetic requirements: Fruit and vegetables that do not meet visual standards are often discarded, even if they are still edible.
- Poor meal planning: People often don't know what they have at home, and they duplicate purchases.
- Leftover food: Much food is thrown away as leftovers that could be consumed later.





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FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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