



WATER CONSUMPTION

Freshwater resources are of major environmental and economic importance. Their distribution varies widely among and within countries. In arid regions, freshwater resources may at times be limited to the extent that demand for water can be met only by going beyond sustainable use in terms of quantity.

Freshwater abstractions particularly from public water supplies, irrigation, industrial processes and cooling of electric power plants exert a major pressure on water resources with significant implications for issues of quantity and quality of water resources. Main concerns relate to the inefficient use of water and to its environmental and socio-economic consequences: low river flows, water shortages, salinisation of freshwater bodies in coastal areas, human health problems, loss of wetlands, desertification and reduced food production.

Definition

Water abstractions refer to freshwater taken from ground or surface water sources, either permanently or temporarily, and conveyed to the place of use. If the water is returned to a surface water source, abstraction of the same water by the downstream user is counted again in compiling total abstractions.

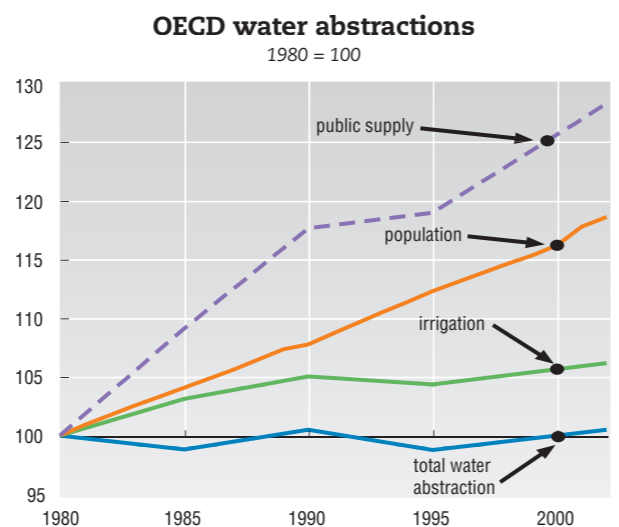
Mine water and drainage water are included. Water used for hydroelectricity generation is an *in situ* use and is excluded.

Comparability

It should be borne in mind that the definitions and estimation methods employed by member countries

may vary considerably and may have changed over time. In general, data availability and quality is best for abstractions for public supply, representing about 15% of the total water abstracted in OECD countries.

Vertical lines in the table indicate breaks in the series because of changes in the data sources or methods of calculation.



Source

OECD (2005), *OECD Environmental Data Compendium* 2004, OECD, Paris.

Further information

• Analytical publications

OECD (2003), *Improving Water Management: Recent OECD Experience*, OECD, Paris.

OECD (2003), *Social Issues in the Provision and Pricing of Water Services*, OECD, Paris.

OECD (2003), *Water: Performance and Challenges in OECD Countries*, OECD Environmental Performance Reviews, OECD, Paris.

OECD and WHO (2003), *Assessing Microbial Safety of Drinking Water: Improving Approaches and Methods*, OECD, Paris.

• Statistical publications

OECD (2005), *OECD Key Environmental Indicators* 2004, OECD, Paris.

• Web sites

OECD Environmental Indicators:
www.oecd.org/env/indicators.

Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform:
www.oecd.org/env/water.

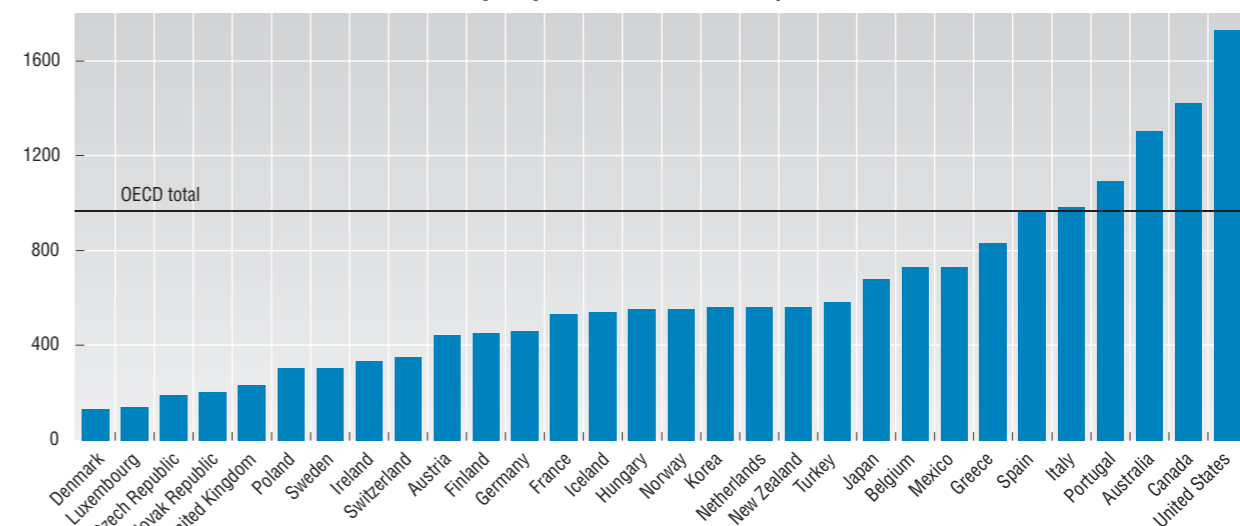
Freshwater abstractions

	Total gross abstractions (millions m ³)				Per capita abstractions (m ³ /capita)	
	1980	1985	1990	1995	2002 (or latest available year)	(Latest available year)
Australia	10 900	14 600	..	15 055	24 071	1 300
Austria	3 342	3 363	3 734	3 368	3 561	440
Belgium	..	..	..	8 149	7 442	730
Canada	37 594	42 383	45 096	..	42 214	1 420
Czech Republic	3 622	3 679	3 623	2 743	1 908	190
Denmark	1 205	..	974	933	707	130
Finland	3 700	4 000	2 347	2 586	2 346	450
France	30 972	34 887	37 687	40 671	30 932	530
Germany	42 206	41 216	47 873	43 374	38 006	460
Greece	5 040	5 496	7 030	..	8 695	830
Hungary	4 805	6 267	6 293	5 976	5 591	550
Iceland	108	112	167	164	156	540
Ireland	1 070	..	..	1 176	..	330
Italy	..	..	..	..	56 200	980
Japan	86 000	86 357	88 009	88 202	86 104	680
Korea	12 800	..	21 300	23 700	26 000	560
Luxembourg	..	67	59	57	60	140
Mexico	56 003	..	..	73 672	72 564	730
Netherlands	9 198	9 349	7 984	7 919	8 889	560
New Zealand	1 200	1 900	..	2 000	..	560
Norway	..	2 025	..	2 420	..	550
Poland	15 131	16 409	15 164	12 924	11 728	300
Portugal	10 500	..	8 600	10 849	11 090	1 090
Slovak Republic	2 232	2 061	2 116	1 386	1 094	200
Spain	39 920	46 250	36 900	33 288	38 544	960
Sweden	4 106	2 970	2 968	2 725	2 689	300
Switzerland	2 589	2 646	2 665	2 571	2 539	350
Turkey	16 200	19 400	28 073	30 112	39 780	580
United Kingdom	13 514	11 533	12 052	9 547	12 375	230
United States	517 720	467 335	468 620	470 514	476 800	1 730
OECD total	1 006 500	994 300	1 011 400	994 000	1 017 700	920

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Water abstractions

m³ per capita, 2002 or latest available year



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MUNICIPAL WASTE

The amount of municipal waste generated in a country is related to the rate of urbanisation, the types and patterns of consumption, household revenue and lifestyles. While municipal waste is only one part of total waste generated, its management and treatment often represents more than one third of the public sector's financial efforts to abate and control pollution.

The main environmental concerns relate to the potential impact from inappropriate waste management on human health and the environment (soil and water contamination, air quality, land use and landscape).

Kilogrammes of municipal waste per capita – or “waste generation intensities” – are broad indicators of potential environmental pressure. They should be complemented with information on waste management practices and costs, and on consumption levels and patterns.

Definition

Municipal waste is waste collected and treated by or for municipalities. It covers waste from households, including bulky waste, similar waste from commerce and trade, office buildings, institutions and small businesses, yard and garden waste, street sweepings, the contents of litter containers, and market cleansing waste. The definition excludes waste from municipal sewage networks and treatment, as well as municipal construction and demolition waste.

Comparability

The definition of municipal waste and the surveying methods used vary from country to country.

The main problems relate to the coverage of household-like waste from commerce and trade, and of separate waste collections, carried out by private companies.

Data for Canada and New Zealand refer to household waste only.

Vertical lines in the tables indicate a break in the series because of a change in data sources or methods of calculation.

OECD total do not include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Korea, Poland and the Slovak Republic.

Source

OECD (2005), *OECD Environmental Data Compendium 2004*, OECD, Paris.

Further information

• Analytical publications

OECD (2002), “OECD Workshop on Waste Prevention: Toward Waste Prevention Performance Indicators”, proceedings, Paris, 8-10 October 2001, OECD, Paris, www.oecd.org/document/52/0,2340,en_2649_34395_1954292_1_1_1_1,00.html.

OECD (2004), *Addressing the Economics of Waste*, OECD, Paris.

OECD (2004), *Economic Aspects of Extended Producer Responsibility*, OECD, Paris.

• Statistical publications

OECD (2004), *Key Environmental Indicators 2004*, OECD, Paris.

• Web sites

OECD Environmental Indicators:
www.oecd.org/env/indicators.

OECD Waste Prevention and Management:
www.oecd.org/env/waste.

Municipal waste generation

	Total amounts generated (thousand tonnes)					Generation intensities (kg/capita)
	1980	1985	1990	1995	2002 (or latest available year)	(Latest available year)
Australia	10 000	..	12 000	..	13 200	690
Austria	..	..	3 204	3 476	4 111	510
Belgium	3 135	3 257	3 662	4 492	4 913	480
Canada	..	..	8 925	7 030	10 869	350
Czech Republic	..	2 600	..	3 200	2 845	280
Denmark	2 046	2 430	..	2 960	3 546	660
Finland	..	..	..	2 100	2 500	480
France	..	..	26 220	28 919	32 174	530
Germany	..	..	..	44 390	48 836	590
Greece	2 500	3 000	3 000	3 200	4 640	440
Hungary	..	..	5 500	4 752	4 646	460
Iceland	..	..	..	166	209	730
Ireland	640	1 100	..	1 848	2 704	700
Italy	14 041	15 000	20 000	25 780	29 788	510
Japan	43 995	43 450	50 441	50 694	52 362	410
Korea	..	20 994	30 646	17 438	18 214	380
Luxembourg	128	131	224	240	285	650
Mexico	..	..	21 062	30 510	32 174	320
Netherlands	7 050	6 933	7 430	8 469	9 953	620
New Zealand	880	..	1 140	1 431	1 541	400
Norway	1 700	1 968	2 000	2 722	2 755	620
Poland	10 055	11 087	11 098	10 985	10 509	270
Portugal	1 980	2 350	3 000	3 884	4 555	440
Slovak Republic	..	1 901	1 600	1 620	1 707	320
Spain	..	..	..	..	26 340	650
Sweden	2 510	2 650	3 200	3 555	4 172	470
Switzerland	2 790	3 398	4 101	4 200	4 743	660
Turkey	12 000	18 000	22 315	20 910	25 134	370
United Kingdom	..	..	27 100	28 900	34 851	580
United States	137 568	149 189	186 167	193 869	207 957	730
OECD total	369 000	399 000	481 000	523 000	585 000	570

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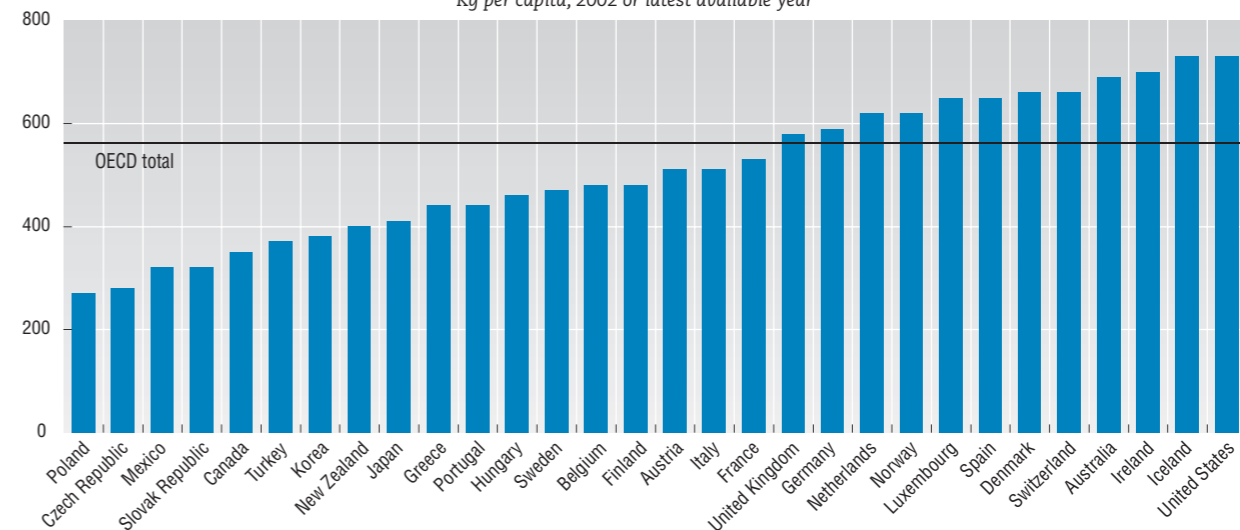
Long-term trends

The quantity of municipal waste generated in the OECD area has been rising since 1980 and reached 585 million tonnes in the early 2000s (570 kg per capita). Generation intensity – i.e. kilogrammes per capita – has risen mostly in line with private final consumption expenditure and GDP, but there has been a slowdown in the rate of growth in recent years.

The amount of municipal waste also depends on national waste management practices. Only a few countries have succeeded in reducing the quantity of solid waste to be disposed of. In most countries for which data are available, increased affluence, associated with economic growth and changes in consumption patterns, tends to generate higher rates of waste per capita.

Municipal waste

Kg per capita, 2002 or latest available year



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