

Environment in 2025

30.06.2026

 **6.2%**

Increase in the amount of municipal waste collected separately compared to the previous year

In 2025, a decrease was noticed in water withdrawal for the needs of the national economy and population (by approximately 5%) and the amount of generated industrial and municipal wastewater (by approximately 6%) compared to the previous year. There was a reduction of emission of particulate pollutants from plants of significant nuisance¹ to air quality by 7% and gaseous pollutants by 2%. Over 6 million tonnes of municipal waste were collected separately, which is over 6% more than in 2024. The total amount of waste generated decreased by 4%, there was a decline of industrial waste by 4%.

Water and wastewater

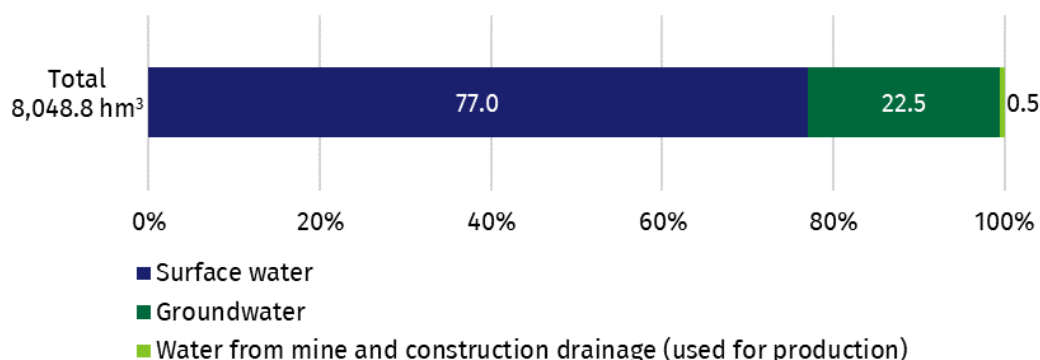
Water withdrawal and consumption

In 2025, there was a decrease in water withdrawal, for needs of the national economy and population compared to the previous year from 8.5 km³ to 8.0 km³. The largest share of water withdrawal (approximately 63%) was for production purposes (5.1 km³, compared to 5.4 km³ in 2024). Water withdrawal for the purpose of filling in and refilling fishponds decreased by approximately 3% compared to 2024 and amounted to 0.8 km³. Water withdrawal for the purpose of exploitation of water supply networks decreased by approximately 1% in comparison with the previous year and amounted to 2.2 km³.

The main source of water supply for the national economy was surface water. In 2025, the withdrawal of surface water amounted to 6.2 km³ and it covered 77% of the needs. Surface water was mainly used for production purposes in industry. The withdrawal of groundwater was approximately 1.8 km³ and has decreased compared to 2024 by approximately 1%.

In 2025, water withdrawal amounted to 8.0 km³

Figure 1. Structure of water withdrawal for the needs of the national economy and population by source in 2025



In 2025, water consumption was approximately 7.6 km³, which was 95% of the total consumption of water recorded the previous year. As during the years before, the largest share of water consumption for the needs of the national economy and population was recorded by industry 67% (5.1 km³). Consumption of water by the fishing industry was approximately

In 2025, 7.6 km³ of water was consumed (95% of the consumption value recorded in 2024)

¹ Plants with the highest emissions of pollutants into the air on a national scale.

11% (0.8 km³) of the total amount of water consumption for the purpose of the national economy. Water consumption by the municipal sector, for the purpose of operation of the water supply network, amounted to 1.7 km³ (approximately 22%). In 2025, water consumption by households, from the water supply system, was similar to the level recorded in 2024 and it amounted to 1.3 km³ (a decrease of 0.1%).

Wastewater

In 2025, the amount of generated industrial and municipal wastewater that required treatment, has decreased compared to the previous year by approximately 2%, and it amounted to 2.1 km³, while the amount of untreated wastewater increased to approximately 0.2 km³. The amount of wastewater treated in wastewater treatment plants, with increased biogene removal hasn't significantly changed compared to the previous year and amounted to 1.2 km³, which was 62% of treated wastewater, while the amount of wastewater treated with the use of mechanical treatment technology amounted to 0.3 km³ (15% of treated wastewater).

Some part of wastewater that required treatment (7.1%) was not subjected to the processes of treatment. In 2025, the amount of wastewater discharged without treatment was 151.8 hm³, compared to 145.2 hm³ in the previous year.

In 2025, there was a decrease in the number of industrial wastewater treatment plants (from 821 in 2024, to 794 in 2025). The number of municipal wastewater treatment plants (3,242) decreased slightly compared to the previous year (3,250). In 2025, the share of population connected to wastewater treatment plants was 76.5% (76.2% in 2024), while in urban areas it was 94.6% (94.4% in 2024) and in rural areas it was 50.1% (49.3% in 2024).

Liquid waste

Due to insufficiently developed sewage infrastructure, some residents continued to use household wastewater disposal systems. In 2025, the number of septic tanks was 2.1 million, similar to the previous year. The amount of liquid waste, collected and delivered to wastewater treatment plants or dump stations, was 46.7 hm³ compared to 45.0 hm³ in 2024.

Pollution and protection of air

In 2025, the amount of emission of particulates, from plants of significant nuisance to air quality, amounted to approximately 14.2 thousand tonnes and it declined by 7% compared to 2024. The main source of emission was industrial processing (60%) and also the entities that produce and supply electricity, gas, steam and hot water (approximately 30%).

In 2025, the amount of wastewater discharged without treatment was 151.8 hm³

In 2025, the number of septic tanks was 2.1 million

In 2025, there was a decline recorded in the amount of emission of particulate pollutants by 7%, compared to the previous year

Table 1. Emission and air pollutant reduction from plants of a significant nuisance to air quality

Specification	2024	2025
Number of plants	1,800	1,828
Emission of pollution in thousand tonnes:		
particulate pollutants	15.3	14.2
of which from combustion of fuels	6.6	6.1
gaseous pollutants	168,201.4	164,534.4
of which:		
carbon dioxide	167,301.3	163,758.5
sulphur dioxide	123.2	109.7
nitrogen oxides (expressed as NO ₂)	138.9	131.9
Level of reduction of generated pollution in %		
particulate pollutants	99.9	99.9
gases (without carbon dioxide)	74.0	75.7

In 2025, the gaseous pollutants emission from plants of significant nuisance to air quality was at a level of 164.5 million tonnes and it declined by 2% compared to 2024. Over 99% of the above-mentioned emissions were carbon dioxide and 0.1% each: sulphur dioxide, carbon oxide and nitrogen oxides. The predominant sources of industrial emission of gaseous pollutants were the entities that operated in the field of generation and supply of electricity, gas, steam and hot water (67%) and industrial processing plants (approximately 32%).

In 2025, with the use of air pollution control devices, 13 million tonnes (99.9%) of particulate and 2.4 million tonnes (75.7%) of gases (excluding CO₂) emitted by plants of significant nuisance to air quality, were retained. In 2025, the amount of retained or neutralised pollution, according to particular types of gaseous pollutants were: 94.4% of sulfur dioxide, 78.2% of hydrocarbons, 47.5% of nitrogen oxides, 34.6% of carbon monoxide, 48.3% of other pollutants (mainly ammonia, carbon disulphide, fluorine, hydrogen sulphide, organochlorine compounds).

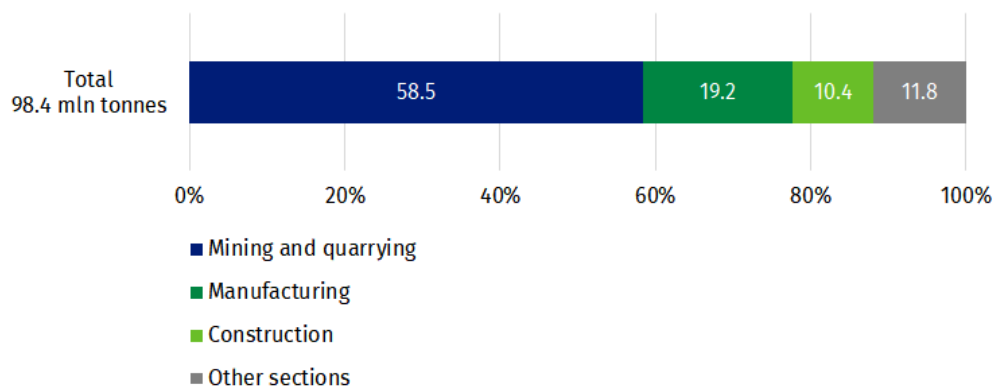
Waste

Industrial waste

In 2025, 98.4 million tonnes of industrial waste was generated (a decline of 4.4% compared to the previous year).

The main sources of waste were: mining and quarrying (57.5 million tonnes, which was approximately 59% of waste generated), manufacturing (18.9 million tonnes – over 19%), construction (10.3 million tonnes – over 10%).

Figure 2. Structure of generated waste by types of activities in 2025



The largest share in the amount of generated waste were waste resulting from exploration, mining, quarrying and physical and chemical treatment of minerals (61.6%) and waste from thermal processes (13.3%).

The predominant ways of treating waste that was generated in 2025 were recovery - 50.5% (49.6% in 2024) and landfilling - 44.3% (44.5% in 2024).

At the end of 2025, the amount of landfilled waste (accumulated) at the facilities of plants was 1,853 million tonnes. The non-reclaimed landfill area (excluding municipal waste) was 7.8 thousand ha, out of which landfills, mine waste treatment facilities, including heaps accounted for 51.7% and tailings ponds accounted for 48.3%. During the year, 6.0 ha of the waste landfill area was reclaimed.

In 2025, there was a decline in the amount of emitted gaseous pollutants by 2%, compared to the previous year

A decline of 4.4% was recorded in the amount of generated industrial waste, compared to the previous year

The share of recovered industrial waste was 50.5%

Municipal waste

In 2025, 14.3 million tonnes of municipal waste were collected (an increase of 0.8% compared to 2024). There was 381.6 kg of collected municipal waste per capita recorded, on average, an increase of 4.7 kg compared to the previous year.

Table 2. Generated municipal waste

Specification	2024	2025	
	in thousand tonnes		2024=100
Total	14,158.4	14,274.3	100.8
Collected separately	5,951.6	6,322.9	106.2
Mixed	8,206.8	7,951.4	96.9

12.3 million tonnes of waste were collected from households, which was 86.0% of the total amount of generated municipal waste.

In 2025, there were 2,377 municipal waste separate collection points in operation (2,378 in 2024). Municipal waste collection service was provided by 1,373 entities (1,366 in 2024).

In 2025, collected municipal waste was designated for the following processes:

- recovery – 8,088.0 thousand tonnes (56.7%), including:
 - recycling – 2,506.2 thousand tonnes (17.6%),
 - biological treatment processes (composting or digestion) – 2,041.4 thousand tonnes (14.3%),
 - incineration with energy recovery – 3,540.4 thousand tonnes (24.8%),
- disposal – 4,027.7 thousand tonnes (28.2%), including:
 - incineration without energy recovery – 5.3 thousand tonnes (0.0%),
 - landfilling – 4,022.4 thousand tonnes (28.2%).

At the end of 2025, there were 242 landfills in operation that received municipal waste and they covered a total area of 1,626.0 ha. 95.5% of those landfills were equipped with degassing facilities, as a result of which 126,748 thousand MJ of thermal energy and 144,646 thousand kWh of electricity was recovered. In 2025, 5 landfills, of a total area of 18.2 ha, were closed down. In 2025, 12,938 uncontrolled landfill sites were closed down (12,726 in 2024), out of which a total of 38.1 thousand tonnes of municipal waste was collected (39.5 thousand tonnes in 2024). At the end of 2025, there were 1,989 reported uncontrolled landfill sites (2,728 in 2024).

Nature and landscape protection

Poland belongs to the group of European countries of high biodiversity, both in terms of the number of species and environmental values. At the end of 2025, the area of the sites under legal protection (including that parts of Natura 2000 sites located within the boundaries of areas under legal protection) was over 10.1 million ha, which was 32.2% of the total area of the country.

The indicator of areas of the sites under legal protection per capita was 2,707 m², compared to 2,699 m² in 2024.

There was an increase recorded of 0.8%, in the amount of generated municipal waste, compared to the previous year

In 2025 there was an increase recorded of 6.2% in the amount of municipal waste collected separately compared to the previous year

The share of municipal waste that was designated for recovery was 56.7%

In 2025, 12,938 uncontrolled landfill sites were closed down

In 2025, the area of special natural value sites under legal protection did not change compared to the previous year, accounting for 32.2% of the total area of the country

Table 3. The area of special natural value under legal protection in 2025

Specification	The number of objects	Total area			
		in thousand ha	percentage	% of the total area of the country	in m ² per capita
Total	10,528	10,104.9	100.0	32.2	2,706.7
National parks	23	314.3	3.1	1.0	84.2
Nature reserves	1,672	190.4	1.9	0.6	51.0
Landscape parks ^a	126	2,519.4	24.9	8.0	674.9
Protected landscape areas ^a	393	6,906.5	68.3	22.0	1,850.0
Ecological areas	7,799	55.9	0.6	0.2	15.0
Documentation sites	194	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.3
Nature and landscape complexes	321	117.5	1.2	0.4	31.5

a With the exception of nature reserves and other forms of nature protection located within the boundaries of landscape parks and protected landscape areas.

At the end of 2025, there were 35,313 registered natural monuments, which is an increase by 247 objects compared to 2024.

Apart from forms of nature protection, including biodiversity, the creation of green areas are also a way of protecting the natural environment and its components. In 2025, the area of publicly accessible strolling-recreational parks amounted to 25.7 thousand ha, the same as in the previous year. Meanwhile, the area of lawns were recorded at 13.3 thousand ha, which was an increase of 0.1 thousand ha compared to 2024.

When quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide the information: "Source of data: Statistics Poland", and when publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include the following disclaimer: "Own study based on figures from Statistics Poland".

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Terms used in official statistics

[Environmental protection](#)

[Consumption of water](#)

[Wastewater](#)

[Liquid waste](#)

[Air pollution protection](#)

[Protection of nature](#)

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