

Environmental statistics in Europe

## **Facts and figures on the environment: from environmental taxes to water resources**

What share of fresh water resources is being abstracted each year? How has the number of wild birds changed over the last 20 years? What share of GDP do environmental taxes account for? In which Member State is the most waste per capita generated? How much fertilizer is consumed in agriculture?

These questions and many others on environmental issues can be answered by consulting the publication<sup>1</sup> "**Environmental statistics and accounts in Europe**" from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The publication has a special focus on the various impacts that European households have on the environment.

One of the priorities of the European Commission is a better environment for everyone. Statistics are increasingly important for the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policies, in particular the "Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". This publication covers key environmental statistics available at Eurostat, the Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. This Eurostat publication is complementary to the five yearly assessment "**European environment - state and outlook 2010**", which was published by the European Environment Agency on 30 November 2010<sup>2</sup>.

### **Largest freshwater resources per capita available in Finland, Sweden and Slovenia**

Freshwater resources<sup>3</sup> are either stocks held in the ground (groundwater) or are available from rivers, lakes, reservoirs, etc. (surface water). As a consequence of differences in climate and population density, the total freshwater resources available are unevenly distributed between Member States, ranging from 100 m<sup>3</sup> per capita in **Malta**, 400 m<sup>3</sup> in **Cyprus**, 1 500 m<sup>3</sup> in the **Czech Republic** and 1 700 m<sup>3</sup> in **Poland** to 20 700 m<sup>3</sup> per capita in **Finland**, 19 800 m<sup>3</sup> in **Sweden**, 15 800 m<sup>3</sup> in **Slovenia**, 14 900 m<sup>3</sup> in **Latvia** and 14 800 m<sup>3</sup> in **Slovakia**.

The water exploitation index represents the total volume of water abstracted in a given year as a share of total freshwater resources. This index depends on the fresh water resources naturally available as well as the level of use of water by households, industry, energy suppliers and agriculture. The index varies widely among Member States, with the lowest shares observed in **Latvia, Slovakia and Sweden** (all 1%) and **Ireland** (2%), and the highest in **Cyprus** (64%), **Belgium** (32%), **Spain** (30%) and **Malta** (21%).

## Water resources and water exploitation

	Total fresh water resources, long term annual average, thousand m <sup>3</sup> per capita*	Water exploitation index**, %
<b>Belgium</b>	1.9	32
<b>Bulgaria</b>	14.1	6
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1.5	12
<b>Denmark</b>	3.0	4
<b>Germany</b>	2.3	19
<b>Estonia</b>	9.2	15
<b>Ireland</b>	10.7	2
<b>Greece</b>	6.4	13
<b>Spain</b>	2.4	30
<b>France</b>	2.9	17
<b>Italy</b>	2.9	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	0.4	64
<b>Latvia</b>	14.9	1
<b>Lithuania</b>	7.3	9
<b>Luxembourg</b>	3.3	:
<b>Hungary</b>	11.6	5
<b>Malta</b>	0.1	21
<b>Netherlands</b>	5.4	11
<b>Austria</b>	10.1	:
<b>Poland</b>	1.7	18
<b>Portugal</b>	6.9	:
<b>Romania</b>	10.5	3
<b>Slovenia</b>	15.8	3
<b>Slovakia</b>	14.8	1
<b>Finland</b>	20.7	:
<b>Sweden</b>	19.8	1
<b>United Kingdom***</b>	2.9	13
<b>Iceland</b>	532.3	0
<b>Norway</b>	81.1	:
<b>Switzerland</b>	6.9	5
<b>Turkey</b>	3.3	:

\* Long term annual average: a minimum 20 years of latest available data. For Malta average based on 1995-2007. Population data: 2008.

\*\* The water exploitation index represents total water abstracted as a percentage of total freshwater resources. Reference period varies between countries: 2002 data: Hungary, 2004 data: Denmark, Germany; 2005 data: Belgium, Poland, Iceland; 2006 data: Spain, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. 2007 data: other countries.

\*\*\* Includes England and Wales for the water exploitation index

: Data not available