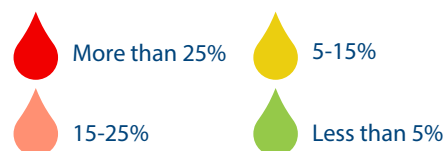


Water use in the EU

Available water resources - 2014

Fresh water withdrawals

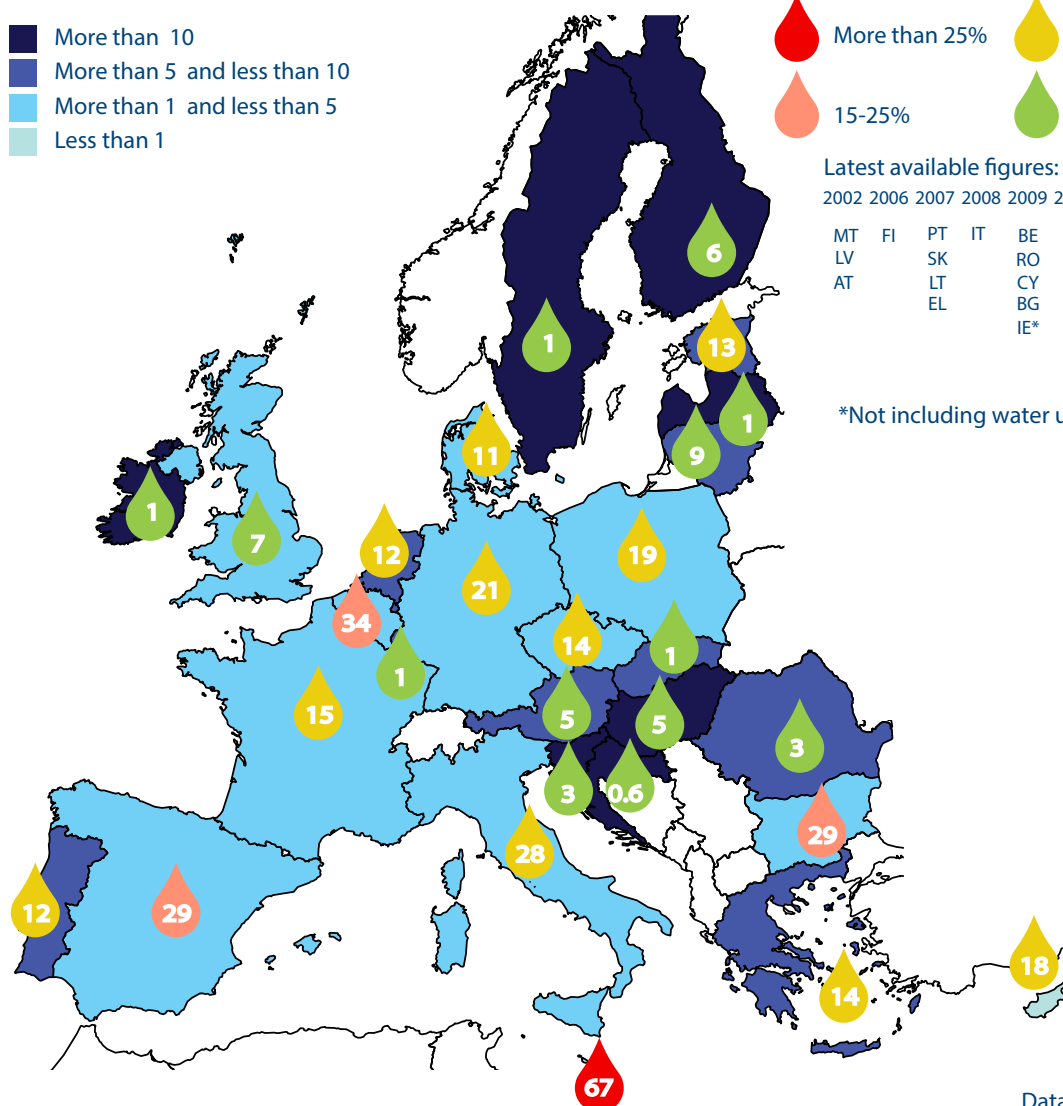
% of total resources



2002 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

MT	FI	PT	IT	BE	NL	UK	SI
LV		SK		RO	ES		LU*
AT		LT		CY	HR		HU
		EL		BG	SE		DK
				IE*	DE		EE
					FR		PL
							CZ

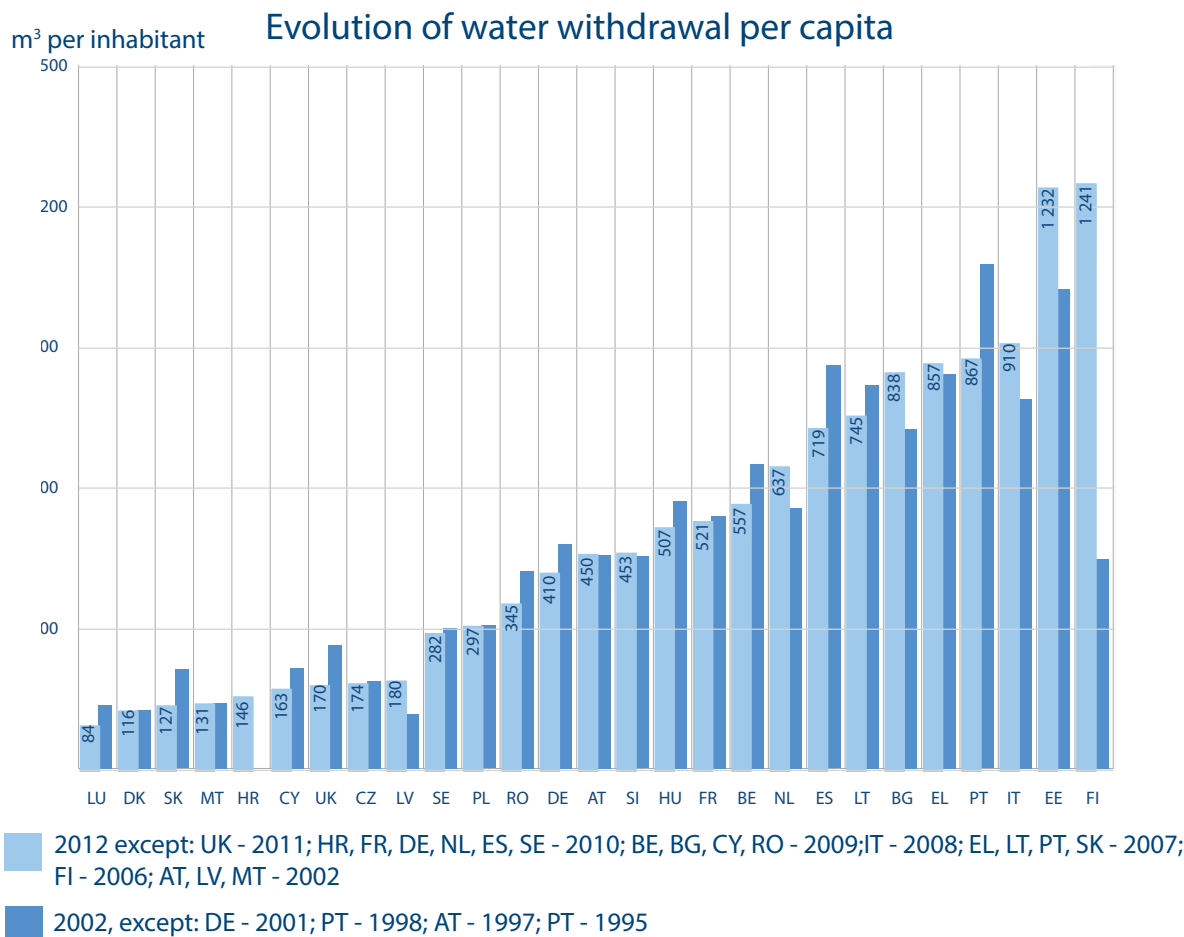
*Not including water used for agriculture



Data source: FAO-Aquastat

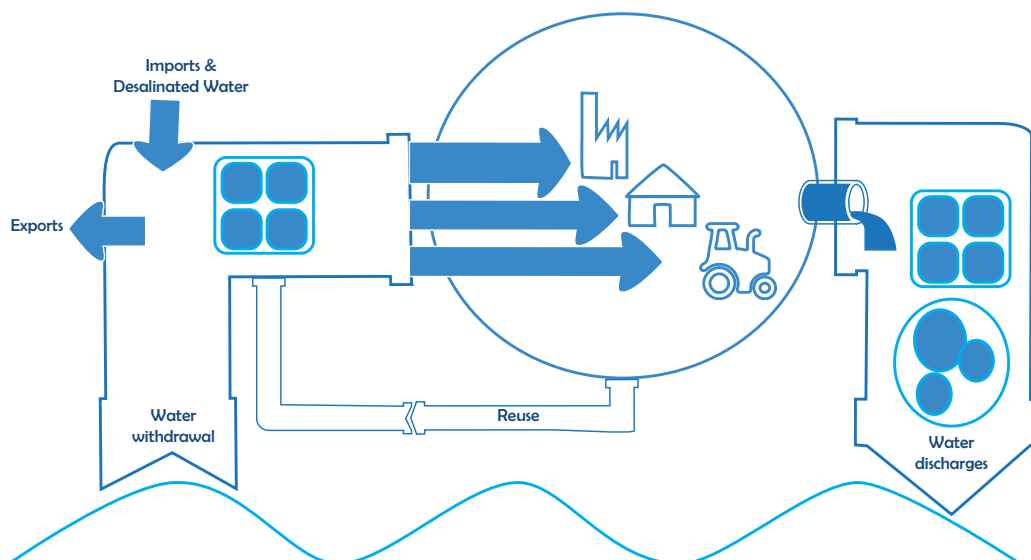
Renewable fresh water resources are defined as the annual average flow of rivers and restocking of aquifers resulting from precipitation. This corresponds to the theoretical yearly amount of water actually available to a country at a given moment. Fresh water withdrawals as a percentage of total renewable water resources give an indication of the pressure on water resources.

Water stress is steadily increasing, as a result either of droughts – a temporary decline in water resources due to low rainfall – or situations of water scarcity, where demand exceeds the level of sustainable use. Assessment of the global use of water resources is hampered by the lack of established standards, and conventional measurements may yield diverging results. The [European Environment Agency assessment](#) of pricing of water as a cost-recovery tool and a means to promote efficient use of resources concluded there was a lack of harmonised concepts across the EU.



Data source: [FAO-Aquastat](#)

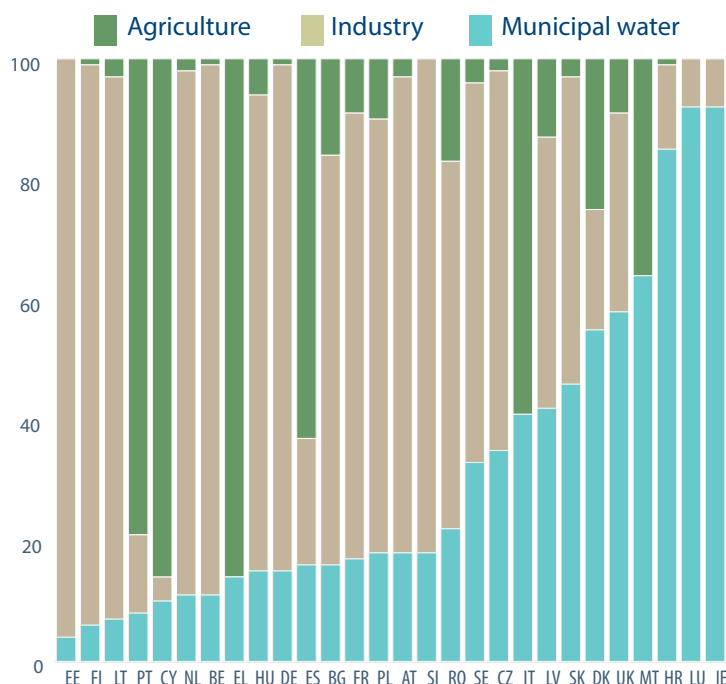
The freshwater cycle



Seeking an additional measure to relieve water stress, the European Commission launched a [public consultation on water reuse](#) in December 2014. Monitoring of freshwater withdrawals, water pricing and water-related business models were identified as possible contributions to solving the problem.

Water withdrawals by sector

% of total withdrawals



Water withdrawals by sector are presented in this chart as a percentage of total withdrawals for the latest available year, as detailed in the map on page 1.

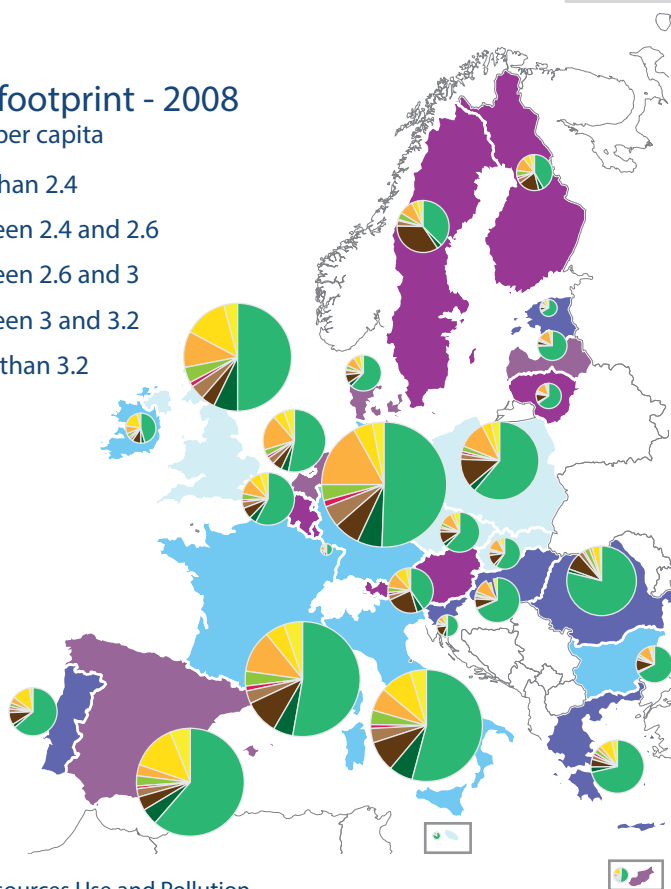
Withdrawals of water represent the annual quantity of self-supplied water used by each sector. Agriculture includes water used for irrigation, livestock and aquaculture purposes, whilst industrial uses also include the dairy and meat industries and industrial processing of harvested agricultural products. Municipal water withdrawals are primarily for the direct use of the population and are usually calculated as the total water withdrawn by the public distribution network. The ratio between net consumption and the water withdrawn can vary from 5 to 15% in urban areas and from 10 to 50% in rural areas.

Data source: [FAO-Aquastat](#)

Water footprint - 2008

1000 m³ per capita

- Less than 2.4
- Between 2.4 and 2.6
- Between 2.6 and 3
- Between 3 and 3.2
- More than 3.2



Household water footprint

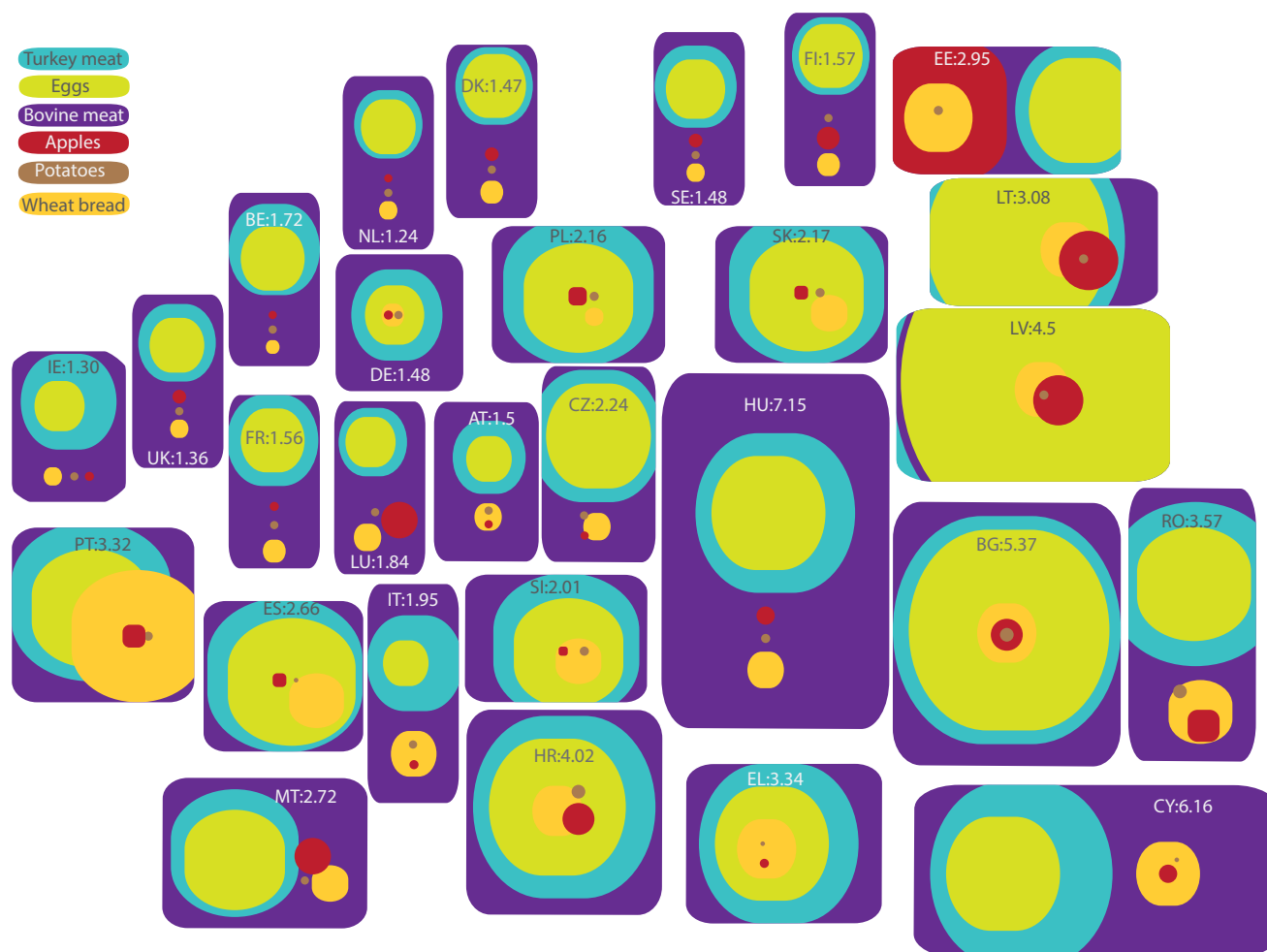
Distribution by consumption sector

- Food, drinks and tobacco
- Clothing and footwear
- Housing, fuel and power
- Household goods and services
- Health and education
- Transport and communications
- Recreation and culture
- Restaurants and hotels
- Other goods and services

Data source: [Global resources Use and Pollution](#)

The concept of water footprint refers to water used to produce the goods and services required to satisfy the country's final demand, regardless of the country where this water was actually used. It is presented by consumption category and includes the water used directly by households.

Water footprints of selected agricultural products

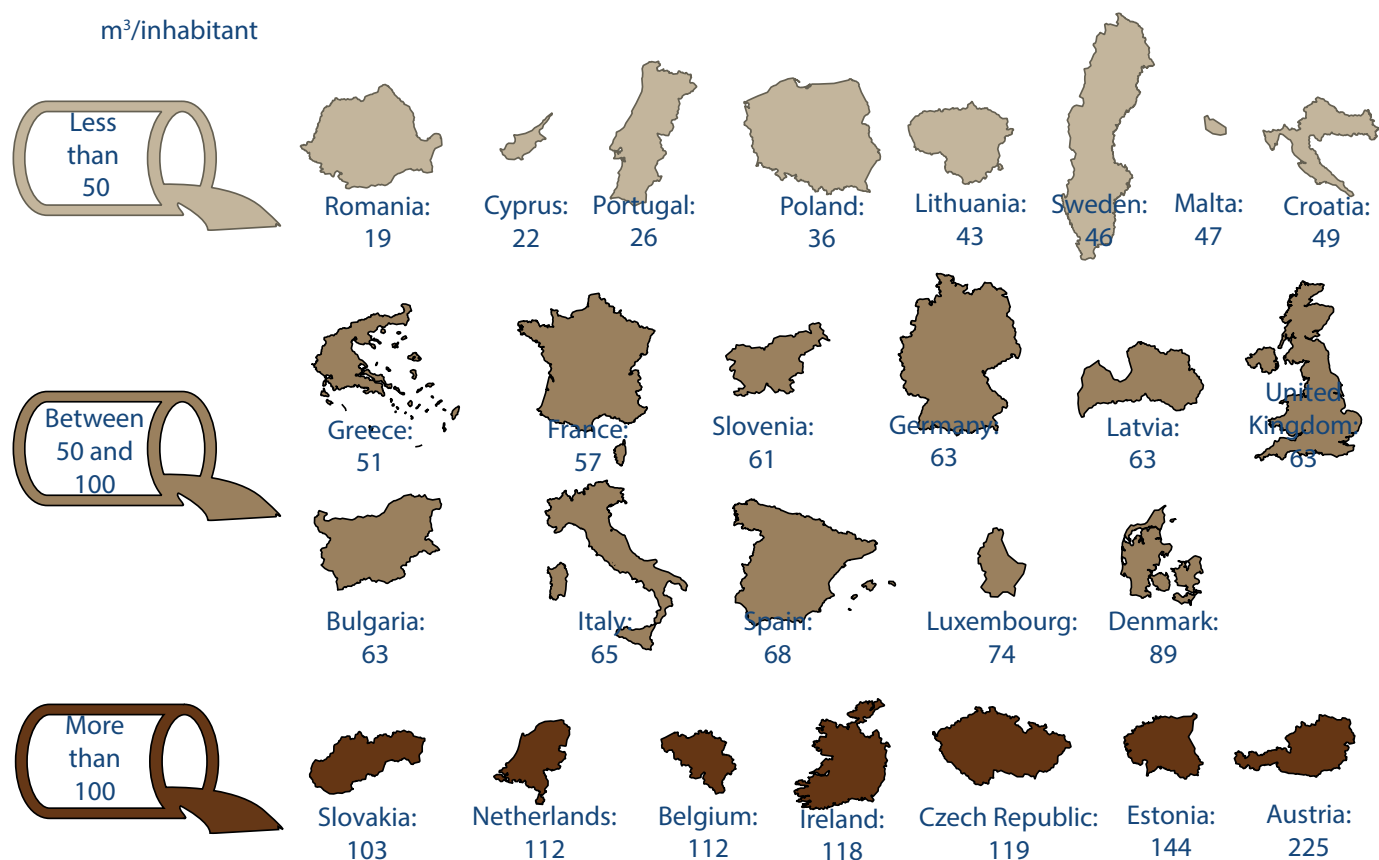


Data source: [National water footprint accounts](#)

The chart compares the relative water footprints of a selection of agricultural products. The size of the country boxes is proportional to the selection's average water footprint, which is specified in m³ per tonne, for each country.

All figures are from Mekonnen, M.M. and Hoekstra, A.Y. (2011), [National water footprint accounts: The green, blue and grey water footprint of production and consumption](#), Value of Water Research Report Series No 50, UNESCO-IHE, Delft, the Netherlands.

Municipal waste water



Data sources: [FAO-Aquastat](#)

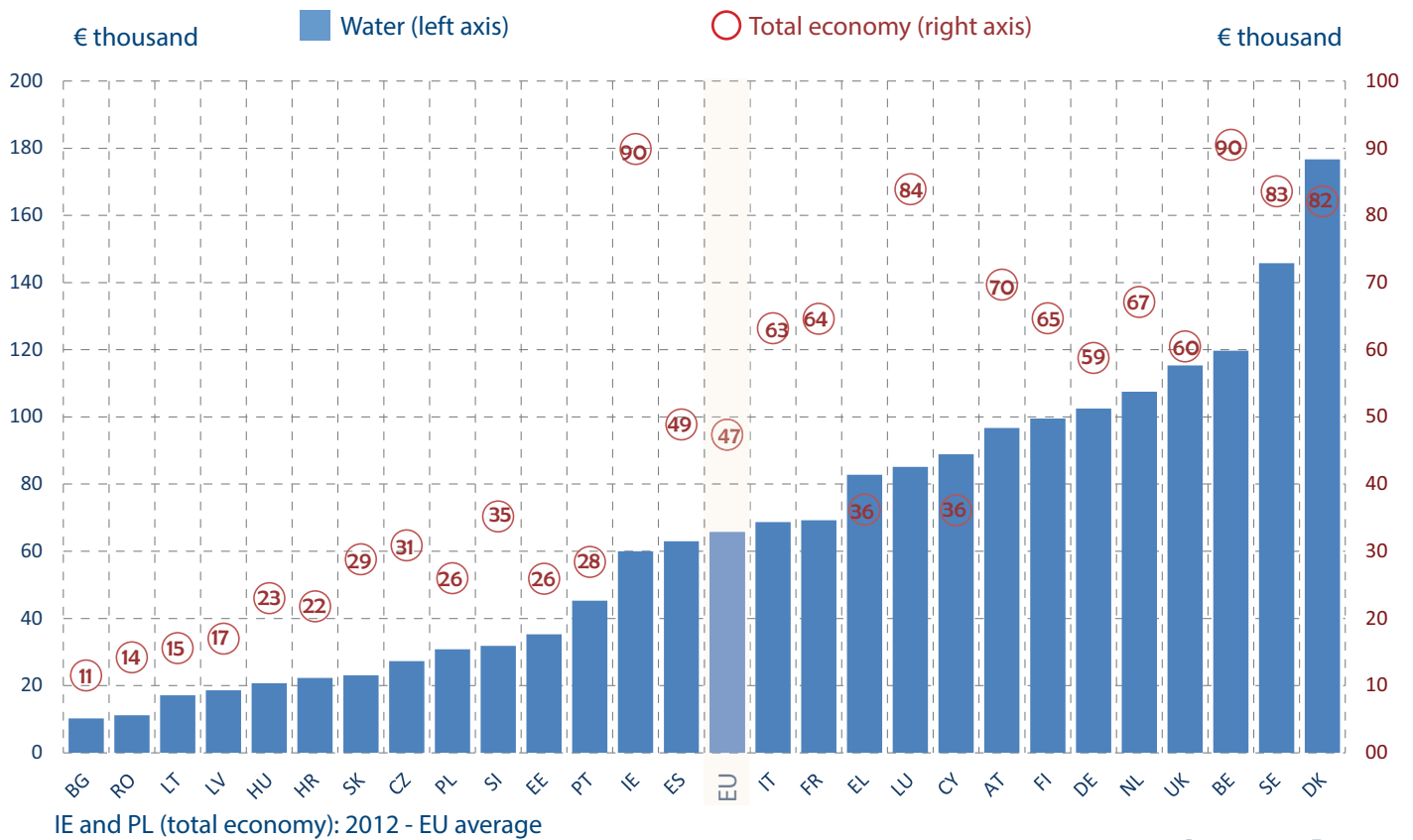
The chart shows the amount of treated municipal wastewater per capita of the resident population in each Member State. For Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Malta and Slovakia, municipal wastewater produced is shown.

Figures are for the latest year available (BE:2002, LU:2003, CY:2005, AT:2006, DE,IT:2007, FR:2008, BG, CZ, EE, LV, LT, MT, PT, SK:2009, DE, IE, NL,SI,SE:2010, HR, PL, RO, UK:2011); population as of 1 January 2013.

The EU's Water Framework Directive, states that 'water is not a commercial product ... but rather a heritage that must be protected'.

Nevertheless, in addition to the lack of standard instruments in water accounting, risks linked to changes in river basin morphology and excessive water withdrawals, to the presence of medicines in waste water, pollution from diffuse sources and loss of aquatic bio-diversity remain unacceptably high.

value added generated by individual workers in the water management sector - 2013 (collection, treatment, supply and sewerage)



Data source: Eurostat

Value added – the difference between output and intermediate consumption – measures the contribution to GDP of an activity. The charts show the value added contributed per employee in enterprises working in water supply and treatment activities, including sewage, compared with the value added per employee in the total business economy, excluding financial services.

Notes

Country codes: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Croatia (HR), Cyprus (CY), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Estonia (EE), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Hungary (HU), Ireland (IE), Italy (IT), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), United Kingdom (UK), European Union (EU28).

Extraction date: Data extracted in April 2016. This is an updated version of a document published in May 2015.

Disclaimer and Copyright. The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the authors and any opinions expressed therein do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. It is addressed to the Members and staff of the EP for their parliamentary work. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2016.



eprs@ep.europa.eu – <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) – <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) – <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)