



Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

**Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures.
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population see
the revised module figures.**

5 May 2000

Quarterly National Household Survey

Recycling and Energy Conservation

1st Quarter 1999

Half a million households recycle

Over 580,000 households (or 48%) reported that they recycled some element of their household waste in the first quarter of 1999. Of the 635,000 households that do not recycle, about 160,000 or 13% of all households reported that they did not recycle because facilities were not available. *See Table below and Table 1.*

Number and percentage of households recycling

	Households* (000s)		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Any item	582.2	635.3	47.8	52.2
Clothing	449.1	768.3	36.9	63.1
Glass	448.8	768.6	36.9	63.1
Aluminium cans	212.5	1,004.9	17.5	82.5
Tin cans	132.9	1,084.5	10.9	89.1
Plastic	78.4	1,139.0	6.4	93.6
Paper	75.6	1,141.8	6.2	93.8
Cardboard	74.6	1,142.8	6.1	93.9

* Excluding "not stated"

These figures are based on the module on Recycling and Energy Conservation which was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey in the first quarter of 1999. Of the materials surveyed, clothing was the most commonly recycled item, followed by glass and aluminium cans. Cardboard was the least recycled refuse item. While the survey results show how many households recycle different items, they do not indicate the total volume of material recycled.

Almost 450,000 households (or 37%) recycle clothing, excluding re-use of clothing by other persons in the same household. About 110,000 households have clothing collected for recycling and 340,000 bring clothing to a collection point. *See Table 2.*

About the same number of households (450,000) recycle glass, with almost 385,000 households bringing glass to a collection point. About 212,500 households (17.5%) recycle aluminium cans; of these, 157,000 bring the cans to a collection point. *See Tables 3 and 4.*

Only 6% of households recycle plastic, paper or cardboard.
See Tables 6, 7 and 8.

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South West has highest percentage recycling

In general, recycling was most prevalent in the South-West, Mid-East and Dublin regions. In those three regions, more than 50% of all households reported some form of recycling, compared with a national average of 47.8%. *See Table 1.*

Some 47.6% of households in the South-West, 43.5% in Dublin and 40.2% in the Mid-East recycled glass, while 17.5%, 25.2% and 18.3% respectively recycled aluminium cans. Collection of goods for recycling was more common in Dublin, where the majority of recycled tin cans, cardboard and plastic was collected rather than delivered. *See Table 9.*

The lowest rate of recycling was in the Border and West regions where less than one third of households reported that they recycled some items. One in six households in the Border region and in Dublin said they would recycle if facilities were available.

Large percentage of households have some roof insulation

Of the energy conservation methods surveyed, attic/roof insulation is the one most often used in Ireland. Over 780,000 households reported that their roofs were fully insulated and another 250,000 households said their roofs were partly insulated. *See Table below and Table 10.*

This means that 93% of relevant households have some attic/roof insulation. The question did not apply in the case of around 109,000 households, mainly in Dublin where apartments represent a higher share of total housing. *See Table 10.*

Household energy conservation methods

	Households* (000s)		Percentage	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Roof insulation	1,030.6	77.3	93.0	7.0
Double glazing	1,005.3	209.1	82.8	17.2
Draught stripping	891.1	314.7	73.9	26.1
CFL light bulbs	890.6	322.6	73.4	26.6

* Excluding "not stated"/"not applicable"

While over a million households reported that they had double-glazing, it should be noted that half of these recorded that the dwelling was partly double-glazed. A total of 496,200 households (or 49.4%) had full double glazing. *See Table 12.*

Fewer households made use of CFL light bulbs than of the other energy conservation measures surveyed. Some 73.4% of households reported that they made use of CFL light bulbs. The majority use them partly and only 25,000 households use CFL bulbs throughout the house. *See Table 11.*

Recycling

Table 1. Households recycling any item of household waste

	Yes	No	No- but would*	Yes	No	No- but would*
	<i>Households (000's)</i>			<i>Percentage</i>		
Border	44.5	68.2	22.8	32.8	50.3	16.8
Dublin	191.0	116.0	59.1	52.2	31.7	16.1
Mid-East	63.8	34.6	17.3	55.1	29.9	15.0
Midland	30.3	28.5	9.3	44.5	41.9	13.6
Mid-West	48.4	40.0	14.1	47.2	39.0	13.7
South-East	57.9	61.3	11.2	44.4	47.0	8.6
South-West	107.6	64.0	10.3	59.2	35.2	5.6
West	38.6	63.4	15.3	32.9	54.1	13.0
State	582.2	476.0	159.3	47.8	39.1	13.1

* Would recycle if the facilities were available

Table 2. Clothing

	<i>Households (000)</i>				
	Yes - Collected	Yes - Delivered	No	Not stated	Total
Border	8.0	22.4	105.1	0.6	136.1
Dublin	50.2	96.6	219.2	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.7	49.7	62.3	0.4	116.2
Midland	3.7	20.4	44.0	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	9.1	30.5	62.9	3.6	106.0
South-East	4.4	36.9	89.0	0.9	131.3
South-West	28.8	58.1	95.0	4.2	186.1
West	2.4	24.0	90.8	2.4	119.7
State	110.3	338.7	768.3	23.2	1240.5

Table 3. Glass

	Yes - Collected	Yes - Delivered	No	Not stated	Total
Border	1.7	30.2	103.6	0.6	136.1
Dublin	49.0	110.3	206.8	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.9	42.6	69.2	0.4	116.2
Midland	1.7	14.6	51.8	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	3.4	28.8	70.2	3.6	106.0
South-East	1.6	44.2	84.7	0.9	131.3
South-West	2.1	84.4	95.4	4.2	186.1
West	0.6	29.8	86.8	2.4	119.7
State	64.0	384.7	768.6	23.1	1240.5

Table 4. Aluminium cans

	Yes - Collected	Yes - Delivered	No	Not stated	Total
Border	0.5	11.4	123.7	0.6	136.1
Dublin	45.4	46.7	274.0	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.5	17.6	94.6	0.4	116.2
Midland	1.2	3.4	63.4	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	2.0	12.8	87.6	3.6	106.0
South-East	1.1	26.7	102.6	0.9	131.3
South-West	1.6	30.2	150.1	4.2	186.1
West	0.1	8.2	108.9	2.4	119.7
State	55.5	157.0	1004.9	23.1	1240.5

Table 5. Tin cans

Households (000)

	Yes - <i>Collected</i>	Yes - <i>Delivered</i>	No	Not stated	Total
Border	0.4	8.9	126.2	0.6	136.1
Dublin	43.1	28.2	294.8	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.4	12.8	99.5	0.4	116.2
Midland	1.1	3.7	63.3	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	1.4	4.6	96.5	3.6	106.0
South-East	0.7	9.7	120.1	0.9	131.3
South-West	0.6	8.0	173.3	4.2	186.1
West	0.0	6.3	110.9	2.4	119.7
State	50.7	82.2	1084.5	23.1	1240.5

Table 6. Paper

	Yes - <i>Collected</i>	Yes - <i>Delivered</i>	No	Not stated	Total
Border	0.3	3.3	131.9	0.6	136.1
Dublin	11.2	20.3	334.5	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.5	8.1	104.1	0.4	116.2
Midland	1.4	2.5	64.2	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	5.2	4.1	93.3	3.6	106.0
South-East	1.1	7.4	121.8	0.9	131.3
South-West	0.6	3.6	177.6	4.2	186.1
West	0.2	2.7	114.3	2.4	119.7
State	23.5	52.1	1141.8	23.1	1240.5

Table 7. Cardboard

	Yes - <i>Collected</i>	Yes - <i>Delivered</i>	No	Not stated	Total
Border	0.2	1.1	134.2	0.6	136.1
Dublin	39.9	12.1	314.1	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.3	4.0	108.4	0.4	116.2
Midland	0.9	1.1	66.1	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	4.2	1.6	96.7	3.6	106.0
South-East	0.6	2.5	127.3	0.9	131.3
South-West	0.5	1.6	179.8	4.2	186.1
West	0.1	1.1	116.1	2.4	119.7
State	49.7	24.9	1142.8	23.1	1240.5

Table 8. Plastic

	Yes - <i>Collected</i>	Yes - <i>Delivered</i>	No	Not stated	Total
Border	0.3	1.4	133.8	0.6	136.1
Dublin	44.5	11.9	309.7	10.7	376.7
Mid-East	3.2	3.7	108.8	0.4	116.2
Midland	1.1	1.0	65.9	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	2.0	1.4	99.0	3.6	106.0
South-East	0.5	2.5	127.4	0.9	131.3
South-West	1.0	2.0	178.9	4.2	186.1
West	0.3	1.4	115.6	2.4	119.7
State	53.0	25.4	1139.0	23.1	1240.5

Table 9. Recycling - regional summary

	<i>Percentage of all households recycling:</i>							Any Item
	Clothing	Glass	Alu-cans	Tin cans	Paper	Cardboard	Plastic	
Border	22.4	23.5	8.7	6.9	2.7	1.0	1.3	32.8
Dublin	40.1	43.5	25.2	19.5	8.6	14.2	15.4	52.2
Mid-East	46.2	40.2	18.3	14.0	10.0	6.3	6.0	55.1
Midland	35.4	23.9	6.8	7.0	5.7	2.9	3.2	44.5
Mid-West	38.6	31.5	14.5	5.8	9.0	5.6	3.4	47.2
South-East	31.7	35.1	21.3	7.9	6.6	2.4	2.3	44.4
South-West	47.8	47.6	17.5	4.7	2.3	1.2	1.7	59.2
West	22.5	26.0	7.1	5.5	2.5	1.0	1.4	32.9
State	36.9	36.9	17.5	10.9	6.2	6.1	6.4	47.8

Energy Conservation

Table 10. Roof Insulation

	<i>Households (000)</i>					
	Yes - Fully	Yes - Partly	No	N/A or Don't know	Not stated	Total
Border	83.4	35.7	10.7	5.8	0.6	136.1
Dublin	237.1	52.0	17.0	59.9	10.8	376.7
Mid-East	84.3	18.3	7.5	5.6	0.4	116.2
Midland	39.7	20.2	4.7	3.4	0.4	68.4
Mid-West	63.2	22.9	8.7	7.3	4.1	106.0
South-East	86.5	28.6	8.5	6.9	0.9	131.3
South-West	116.9	37.3	13.3	14.3	4.3	186.1
West	72.4	32.3	7.0	5.6	2.5	119.7
State	783.3	247.2	77.3	108.8	23.9	1240.5

Table 11. CFL light bulbs

	Yes - Fully	Yes - Partly	No	N/A or Don't know	Not stated	Total
Border	2.4	101.9	31.2	0.1	0.6	136.1
Dublin	9.4	252.2	102.6	1.9	10.6	376.7
Mid-East	1.8	75.7	38.0	0.3	0.4	116.2
Midland	1.2	51.5	15.3	0.1	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	1.7	75.9	24.6	0.3	3.6	106.0
South-East	2.2	90.9	37.1	0.2	0.9	131.3
South-West	3.4	127.3	50.1	1.0	4.3	186.1
West	3.0	90.3	23.8	0.2	2.4	119.7
State	25.0	865.7	322.6	4.1	23.1	1240.5

Table 12. Double glazing

	Yes - Fully	Yes - Partly	No	N/A or Don't know	Not stated	Total
Border	53.3	63.3	18.7	0.1	0.6	136.1
Dublin	151.2	144.4	68.7	1.8	10.6	376.7
Mid-East	49.2	45.3	21.1	0.1	0.4	116.2
Midland	27.1	31.7	9.1	0.1	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	44.7	40.4	17.3	0.1	3.6	106.0
South-East	52.5	55.2	22.6	0.2	0.9	131.3
South-West	75.3	71.8	34.3	0.4	4.3	186.1
West	42.9	57.1	17.2	0.1	2.4	119.7
State	496.2	509.1	209.1	3.0	23.1	1240.5

Table 13. Draught stripping*Households (000)*

	Yes - <i>Fully</i>	Yes - <i>Partly</i>	No	N/A or Don't know	Not stated	Total
Border	44.6	60.5	29.9	0.5	0.6	136.1
Dublin	92.9	176.5	89.3	7.4	10.6	376.7
Mid-East	31.1	50.2	33.6	0.9	0.4	116.2
Midland	25.2	27.3	15.4	0.2	0.3	68.4
Mid-West	33.5	38.7	29.8	0.3	3.7	106.0
South-East	44.6	48.6	36.6	0.6	0.9	131.3
South-West	48.0	84.3	48.5	1.1	4.2	186.1
West	40.3	44.8	31.5	0.6	2.4	119.7
State	360.2	530.8	314.7	11.5	23.2	1240.5

Table 14. Energy conservation - regional summary*Percentage of all households with:*

	Attic/roof Insulation	CFL bulbs	Double glazing	Draught stripping
Border	91.7	77.0	86.2	77.8
Dublin	94.5	71.8	81.1	75.1
Mid-East	93.2	67.1	81.7	70.8
Midland	92.7	77.5	86.6	77.3
Mid-West	90.9	75.9	83.1	70.8
South-East	93.2	71.5	82.7	71.8
South-West	92.1	72.3	81.1	73.2
West	93.8	79.7	85.3	73.0
State	93.0	73.4	82.8	73.9

Background Notes

Reference period The questions on recycling and energy conservation were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from December 1998 to February 1999.

Purpose of survey While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes modules on social topics of interest from time to time.

Definitions Recycling was defined as any item of household waste re-used *by others*, i.e. outside the household.

For example, a plastic shopping bag which is later used as a bin liner or to dispose of cold ashes was not considered re-use or recycling by others. Similarly, clothing passed on from one member of a household to another was not considered re-use or recycling. However, clothing collected or deposited at a charity outlet was.

Regions The regions presented here are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities)(Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation in 1 January 1994. The composition of the regions (at NUTS3 and NUTS2 level) is set out below.

Border, Midlands and Western NUTS2 Region

Border	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo
Midland	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath
West	Galway County Borough Galway County Mayo Roscommon

Eastern and Southern NUTS2 Region

Dublin	Dublin Dun Laoighaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare Meath Wicklow
Mid-West	Clare Limerick County Borough Limerick County Tipperary North Riding
South-East	Carlow Kilkenny Tipperary South Riding Waterford County Borough Waterford County Wexford
South-West	Cork County Borough Cork County Kerry

Questionnaire The questions on recycling and energy conservation are set out overleaf.

QNHS questions on Recycling and Energy Conservation:

Recycling

Q1 Are any items of household waste recycled or re-used by others – such as glass, paper, clothing, aluminium cans etc?

The response categories are:

- 1: Yes
- 2: No
- 3: No – But if the facilities were available I would recycle

Filter: If Q1=1 respondent is asked individually about 7 different materials. If Q1=2 or 3 respondent skips to Q9.

Q2-Q8 Please indicate which of the following items are recycled or re-used by others and whether the items are collected or brought to a collection point.

- Q2 Glass?
- Q3 Paper?
- Q4 Cardboard?
- Q5 Plastic?
- Q6 Aluminium cans?
- Q7 Tin cans?
- Q8 Clothing?

The response categories are:

- 1: Yes - It is collected
- 2: Yes - It is brought to a collection point
- 3: No

Energy Conservation

Q9-Q12 Are any of the following energy conservation measures installed?

- Q9 Double glazing?
- Q10 Draught stripping to windows or external doors?
- Q11 Attic/Roof insulation?
- Q12 CFL (Compact Florescent) light bulbs?

The response categories are:

- 1: Yes – fully
- 2: Yes – partly
- 3: No
- 4: Don't know
- 5: Not applicable