

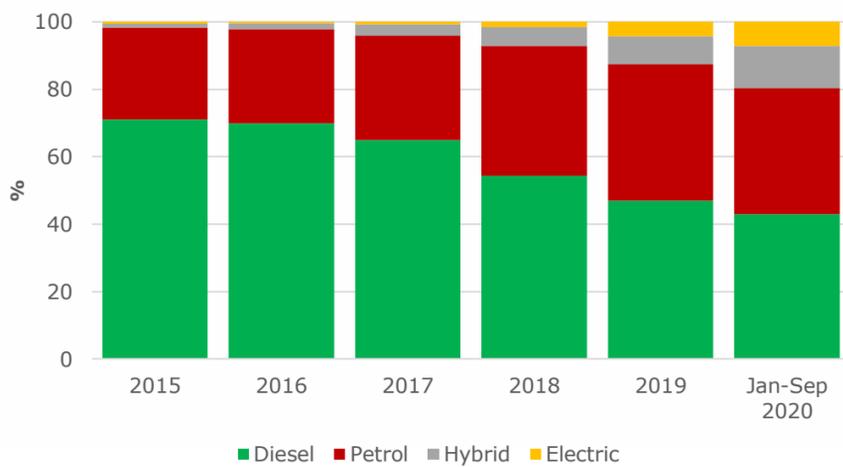


TRANSPORT

Explainer: This indicator details the **percentage of electric vehicles (full battery electric and plug-in hybrid) as a share of new private cars licensed for the first time** and also **the total number of passenger journeys by public transport**.

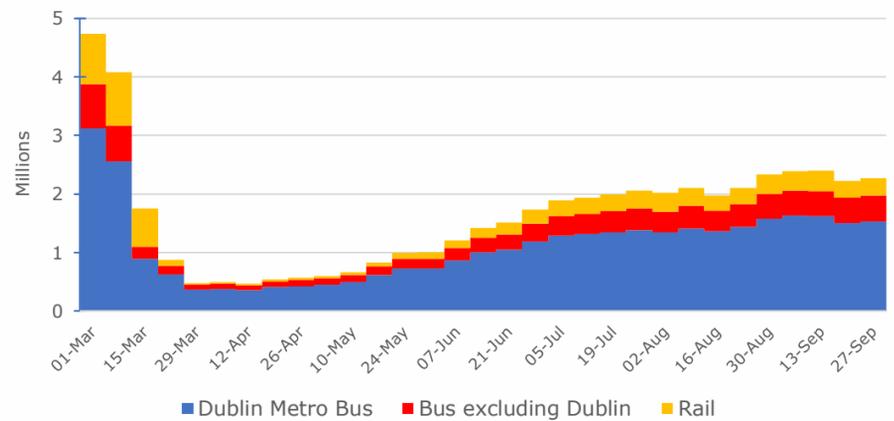
ELECTRIC VEHICLES

While the number of electric vehicles (EVs) as a percentage of new licensed private cars remains small in Ireland, the share has been rising over the last number of years. In 2015, **0.5%** of new licensed private cars were electric while by 2019 this was **4.2%**. For the first 9 months of 2020, EVs have accounted for **7.1%** of new licensed private cars. The [Climate Action Plan 2019](#) aims to reach **100%** of all new cars and vans being EVs by 2030.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT (excluding LUAS)

The number of passenger journeys on public transport has fallen sharply since the start of March 2020 (**52%** lower). Rail was the most severely hit since the onset of the Covid-19 crisis. In the week commencing 05 April the number of journeys undertaken was **97.2%** lower than it was in the first week of March. The corresponding figure for bus journeys was **87.9%** lower. For more on traffic and transport indicators, see our interactive [Traffic and Transport Indicators \(including impact of COVID-19\)](#).



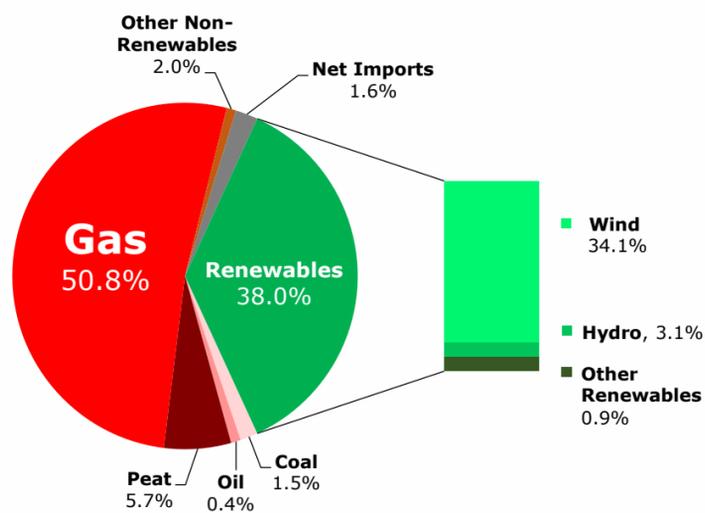
Sources: CSO - [New Vehicles Licensed for the First Time](#) and [Transport Bulletin](#).

ENERGY

Explainer: This indicator details **Ireland's overall fuel mix for electricity generation**. It also includes figures on the **energy performance of the national dwelling stock** derived from the Building Energy Rating (BER) dataset.

ELECTRICITY FUEL MIX

The share of electricity generated by renewables over the most recent period with data available (Jul-2019 to Jun-2020) was **38%** with wind (alone) accounting for **34.1%** of the total. The target set under the current Programme for Government is to achieve at least **70%** renewable electricity by 2030. Gas remains the dominant fuel for electricity generation at **50.8%**.



Sources: EirGrid [database](#) and CSO- [Domestic Building Energy Ratings \(October 2020\)](#).

BUILDING ENERGY PERFORMANCE

There were **23,353** BER audits in Q3 2020 which was a **7%** decrease on the same period in 2019. Dwellings with BERs have been weighted by the CSO to estimate a BER profile for all dwellings at a national level. This shows that **7%** of dwellings (105,048) have an energy rating of B2 or higher. The target set under the current Programme for Government is for at least 500,000 homes to upgrade to a B2 equivalent BER by 2030. Further information in relation to BER statistics is available [here](#) based on data from SEAI.



Explainer: This indicator details current exceedances of air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter in Ireland.

AIR QUALITY

NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂)

The main source of NO₂ in Ireland is road transport. There are currently 26 monitoring stations for NO₂ in Ireland. The hourly limit for NO₂ is 200 ug/m³. EU limits are deemed breached if more than 18 exceedances occur during the year. Based on available data to 31 August 2020, one station had recorded values in excess of the hourly limit (data is under process of validation).

Station Name	No. of values greater than 200 ug/m ³ (year to date)	Station Location	Station Type
Pearse Street	12	Dublin 2	Urban Traffic

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM₁₀)

The main source of PM₁₀ in Ireland arises from the burning of solid fuel. There are currently 42 monitoring stations for PM₁₀ in Ireland. The daily limit for PM₁₀ is 50 ug/m³. EU limits are deemed breached if more than 35 exceedances occur during the year. Based on available data to 30 September 2020, the stations showing the most recorded values in excess of the daily limit are shown in the table below.

Station Name	No. of values greater than 50 ug/m ³ (year to date)	Station Location	Station Type
Ennis	6	Co. Clare	Suburban Background
South Link Road	5	Cork City	Suburban Traffic
Macroom	4	Co. Cork	Suburban Background
Ringsend	4	Dublin 4	Urban Traffic

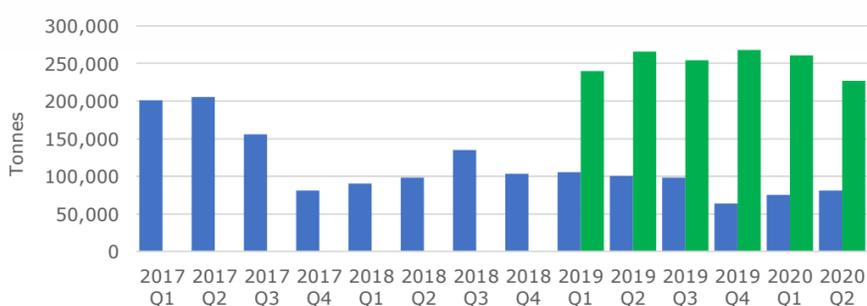
Source: EPA - [Air Quality Bulletin](#).

WASTE

Explainer: This indicator measures the **quantity of municipal waste** accepted at Irish landfills and treated by incineration.

WASTE

In Q2 2020, more than 80,000 tonnes of municipal waste were accepted at Irish landfills. This was a reduction of **20%** compared to Q2 2019. Treatment of municipal waste through incineration with energy recovery has increased in recent years, rising by **16.6%** between 2017 and 2019.



Source: EPA - [National Waste Statistics](#).

■ Landfill ■ Incineration

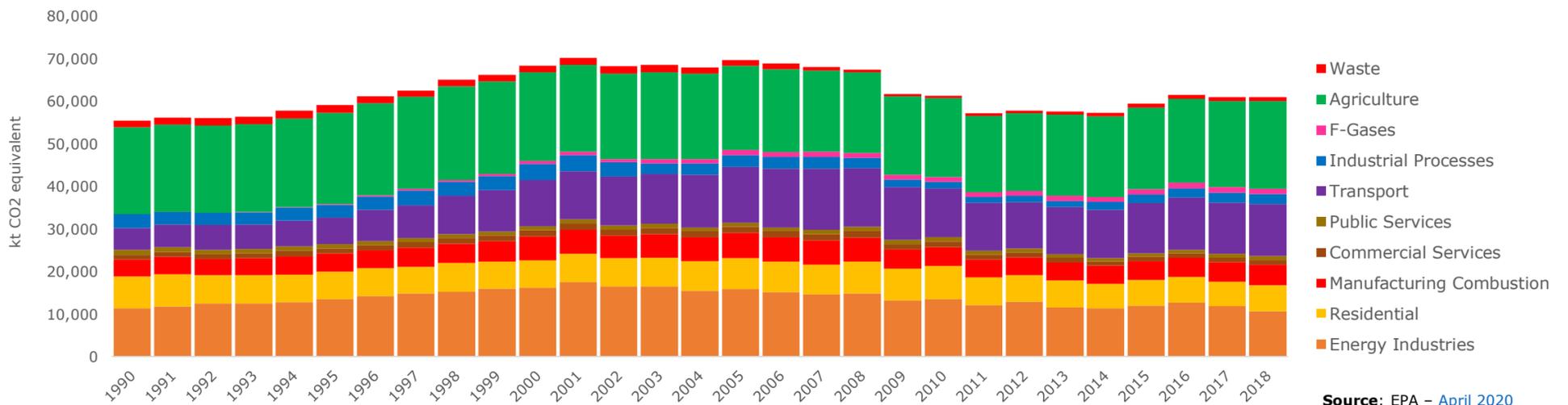


GHG EMISSIONS

Explainer: This indicator details overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emission figures for Ireland since 1990 by sector. Reference is also made to current GHG emission projections.

NATIONAL GHG EMISSIONS

For 2018, total GHG emissions are estimated to be 60.93 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq). This is **0.1%** lower than emissions in 2017, largely due to a reduction of coal use in electricity generation. Agriculture (**33.9%**), Transport (**20.1%**) and Energy Industries (**17.4%**) account for the largest share of emissions. The EPA published [Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2019-2040](#) in July 2020. The EPA produced two scenarios - *With Existing Measures (WEM)* and *With Additional Measures (WAM)*. The EPA notes that Ireland is set to miss its 2020 EU target of a 20% reduction in non-Emissions Trading Scheme emissions on 2005 levels (projected to be **2-4%** below instead) but will meet its 2030 target under the WAM scenario (with the use also of the carbon sink flexibility).

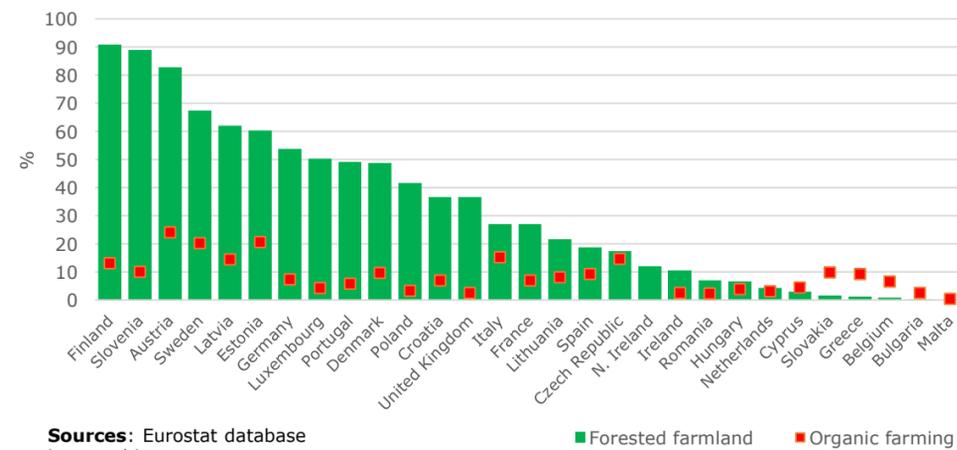


AGRICULTURE

Explainer: This indicator shows the percentage of Irish farms with forested areas and also the share of total organic area compared to other EU countries.

FOREST OWNERSHIP & ORGANIC FARMING

In 2016, around **11%** of Irish farms contained forested areas. In Finland and Slovenia, about 9 in every 10 farm holdings also contained forested areas. In 2018, the share of total organic area in the total utilised agricultural area in Ireland was just under **3%** with Austria (24%), Estonia (21%) and Sweden (20%) having the highest shares.

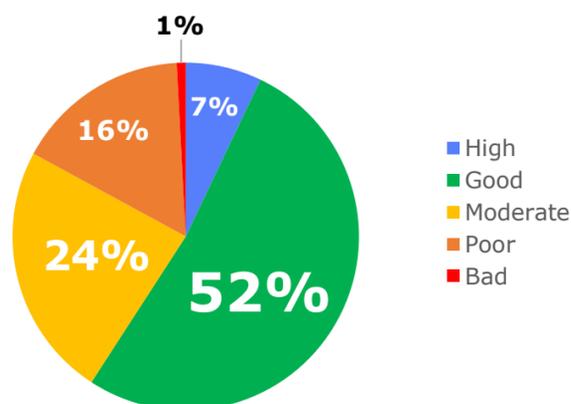


WATER

Explainer: This indicator shows the water quality status of Irish surface waters and groundwater.

WATER QUALITY

Around **59%** of surface waters and groundwater in Ireland are of good or high quality. About **24%** are in moderate condition while the remainder are either in poor (**16%**) or bad (**1%**) status. Further information on water quality in Ireland can be found [here](#).

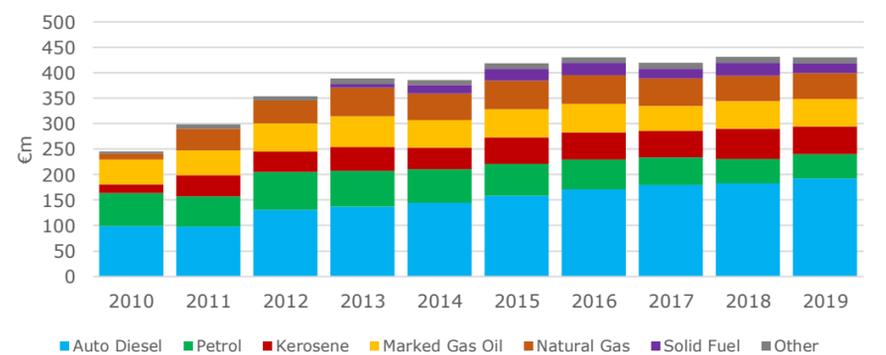


CARBON PRICING

Explainer: This indicator details the current level of the carbon tax in Ireland as well as the breakdown of revenue receipts.

CARBON TAX

A carbon tax was introduced in Ireland from 2010 onwards. In Budget 2021 the rate increased to €33.50/tonne. Revenue from the carbon tax fell slightly to €430m in 2019. Auto diesel accounts for the largest share of carbon tax receipts at **45%**. The target set under the current Programme for Government is to increase the carbon tax to €100/tonne by 2030.



BIODIVERSITY

Explainer: This indicator measures the trends in biodiversity across a range of different categories.

BIODIVERSITY TRENDS

National Biodiversity Indicators have been developed for Ireland and provide a key resource for tracking changes in our environment over time. The status of birds is currently classified as intermediate though there are variations among different species. Short-term declines have now been established for bee populations and long-term declines for butterfly populations. Further information in relation to other biodiversity indicators for Ireland is available [here](#).

Biodiversity Indicator	Status		
	Current	Short-term	Long-term
Trends in the status of birds	Orange	Orange	Orange
Trends in the status of bees	Red	Red	Grey
Trends in the status of butterflies	Red	Red	Red
Trends in the status of plants	Grey	Grey	Yellow

green = positive orange = intermediate red = negative grey = unknown

Source: National Biodiversity Data Centre [indicators](#).