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Nature and Extent of Textiles consumption and post-consumer Textiles

NATEX 2.0

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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a study undertaken in 2025-26 on the NATure and EXtent of TEXtiles consumption and post-consumer textiles (NATEX) in Ireland in 2023. It builds on the findings of the first NATEX study, published by the Environmental Protection Agency in 20211.

The objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive, quantitative baseline of textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland. It aims to improve the evidence base to support policy interventions, target setting and monitoring. It has been informed by an extensive data collection exercise, drawing on existing datasets and new data collected to address knowledge gaps. The findings of the study are presented in this report, along with conclusions and recommendations to improve data collection.

'Textiles' are defined as products of clothing, footwear and interior furnishings composed of at least 80% by weight of textile fibres, as set out in the EU Textile Labelling Regulation.[2] For the purpose of this study, 'post-consumer textiles' refers to textile products that have been discarded, donated, swapped, sold or otherwise disposed of by consumers that no longer want or need them. This study focusses specifically on textile products that are within the scope of the forthcoming extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme for textiles, as defined in the EU Waste Framework Directive (refer to **Appendix A**).

Key Findings[3]

Consumption of textile products in Ireland has risen sharply over the past decade, more than tripling from 2010 to 2023. In 2023, it is estimated that Irish consumers purchased **121,000 tonnes** of textiles, equating to **24 kg per person**, which is higher than the EU average of 19 kg per person.

[1] EPA (2021) *Nature and Extent of Post-consumer Textiles in Ireland – Study Report*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/nature-and-extent-of-post-consumer-textiles-in-ireland.php

[2] Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2011 on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products and repealing Council Directive 73/44/EEC and Directives 96/73/EC and 2008/121/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011R1007-20180215.

[3] Quantities provided in this section are rounded. Refer to **Section 3** for detailed quantities.

This consumption generates significant volumes of post-consumer textiles. In 2023, the Irish public generated approximately **160,000 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles, or **31 kg per person**, which is substantially higher than the EU average of 16 kg per person.[4]

Two-thirds of post-consumer textiles (**70%**, **112,000 tonnes**) were discarded as waste in 2023, primarily in the municipal waste stream via household bins. Of these, it is estimated that most were incinerated in waste-to-energy facilities in Ireland (**47,000 tonnes**) or as a component of solid recovered fuel in cement kilns in Ireland or overseas (**38,000 tonnes**), with a further **16,000 tonnes** estimated to go to landfill.

The remaining third of post-consumer textiles (**30%**, **48,000 tonnes**) were directed by consumers to more circular, separate collection streams, including:

- Donation to charity, e.g., via direct donation and charity textile banks: **18%** (**29,000 tonnes**)
- Donation to specialist textile sorters, e.g., via commercial textile banks: **11%** (**18,000 tonnes**)[5]
- Resale on digital marketplaces: **1%** (**1,000 tonnes**)
- Drop-off at retailer collection points: **<1%** (**300 tonnes**)
- Clothes swaps: **<1%** (**5 tonnes**)

Of the **48,000 tonnes** of separately collected post-consumer textiles in 2023, most were directed for reuse or recycling in Ireland or overseas (**98%** of separate collection, and **29%** of post-consumer textiles overall). Approximately **16,000 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles were reused in Ireland (**33%** of separately collected textiles, **11%** of post-consumer textiles overall); **26,000 tonnes** were exported for reuse (**55%** of separately collected textiles, **18%** overall); and **5,000 tonnes** were sold as feedstock for open-loop recycling, predominantly overseas (**10%** of separately collected textiles, **3%** overall).[6] A very small proportion of

[4] The difference between estimated textiles consumption (24 kg per person) and post-consumer textile generation (31 kg per person) may be attributed to a number of potential factors, including data limitations and methodological inconsistencies across sources, as well as inherent time lags between the purchase of textile products and their disposal. Further discussion is provided in **Section 3.3**.

[5] 'Specialist textile sorters' is used in this study to refer to a range of organisations that specialise in the collection and sorting of post-consumer textiles for sale to third parties for reuse or recycling. This includes specialist organisations that partner with retailers to manage their in-store collection schemes. The degree of sorting undertaken by these organisations varies from very high-level to very detailed grading into numerous specific categories tailored to end markets.

[6] 'Open-loop' refers to recycling whereby the recycled material is used for a different market application than that of the previous life cycle, whereas in 'closed-loop' recycling, the recycled material is reused for the same market application. In the case of textiles, closed-loop refers to the recovery of the recycled material to produce recycled fibres for use in new textile products (also referred to as 'fibre-to-fibre' recycling), whereas open-loop textile recycling involved the use of the recycled material for other applications (e.g., insulation material, wiping cloths or mattress stuffing),

separately collected textiles was deemed unsuitable for reuse or recycling markets and discarded as waste by textile sorters (**1,000 tonnes**) and charities (**3 tonnes**), representing **2%** of separately collected textiles and less than **1%** of post-consumer textiles overall.

Post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland, which are processed by sorters in Ireland and Northern Ireland, are exported for reuse or recycling to destinations in Africa, principally West Africa (**62%**), Europe excluding the UK (**18%**), Asia (**11%**) and the UK (**9%**). Some shipments are routed to Eastern Europe or Asia for additional sorting before onward redistribution to other end markets.

Figure 1.1 provides a graphical overview of the textiles value chain in Ireland in 2023, mapping textile products flowing into the economy and the various flows and fates of post-consumer textiles.

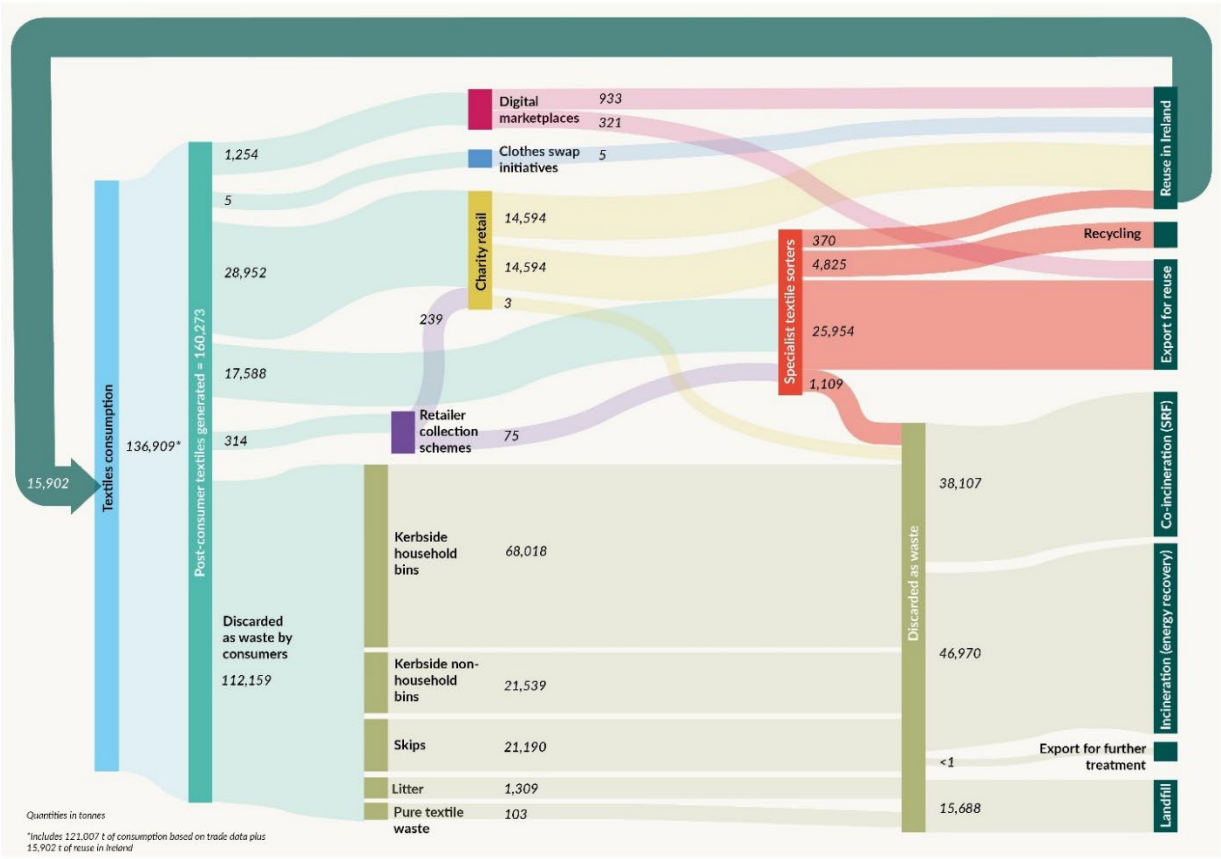

Figure 1.1: Overview – textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland in 2023[7]

which typically represent lower value and final applications. There is no statutory definition of open- or closed-loop recycling; however, the concepts are defined based on academic literature in JRC report no. JRC131531, *'Towards a better definition and calculation of recycling'* (JRC, 2023).

[7] As is evident from the differently sized flows in the diagram, estimated quantities do not always align exactly across textile streams. For example, estimated textiles consumption (121,007 tonnes) is not equal to estimated post-consumer textile generation (160,273 tonnes). This reflects a range of factors

Challenges for Data Collection

The study identified several key challenges associated with gathering complete and representative data on the consumption of textiles and the generation and management of post-consumer textiles in Ireland, as summarised below. These challenges are expected to be substantially addressed through the implementation of recent and forthcoming policy developments, particularly the revisions to the Waste Framework Directive. The revised Directive requires mandatory reporting on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles under textiles EPR and provides greater clarity regarding the waste/non-waste status of post-consumer textiles.

Key challenges for gathering quantitative data on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland:

- **Fragmented data sources**: Data are dispersed across a wide range of actors, including public, private and charity sector organisations, with no centralised reporting mechanism, contributing to inconsistencies and difficulties reconciling datasets.
- **Regulatory ambiguity**: Uncertainty regarding the waste/non-waste status of separately collected post-consumer textiles and the associated licensing and reporting requirements, leading to inconsistent reporting practices and data gaps.
- **E-commerce limitations**: Uncertainty regarding the extent to which e-commerce (online shopping) is captured in trade statistics, potentially resulting in underestimation of consumption levels.
- **Challenges in mixed waste quantification**: Textiles are difficult to quantify within mixed waste streams, as they are often disposed of intermittently in bulk and tend to absorb moisture, increasing their weight and affecting measurement accuracy.
- **Misalignment with EPR scope**: Data on post-consumer textiles cannot always be readily aligned with the scope of textiles EPR (e.g., inability to exclude heavy out-of-scope items, such as carpets and duvets).
- **Capacity constraints in the charity sector**: Many organisations in the charity retail sector lack resources to consistently and accurately record volumes of inbound and outbound textiles.

relating to the nature of the study and the textiles value chain. The study relies on quantitative data gathered from a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders and datasets, with different sources using different methods to quantify textiles at different stages of the value chain. There are also specific challenges associated with particular textile streams and datasets. A detailed discussion is provided in **Section 2.4**.

Key challenges for gathering quantitative data on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland:
• **Reliance on non-mandatory data sources**: Data availability is constrained by reliance on private sector actors not subject to mandatory reporting requirements for certain streams (e.g., digital marketplaces and retailer collection schemes).

Recommendations

While existing data collection challenges are expected to be largely addressed through ongoing policy developments, a number of targeted recommendations have been proposed to address residual data gaps that may persist following implementation:

- **Support participation of the charity sector in EPR reporting:** Given the significant role of the charity retail sector within Ireland's textiles value chain, targeted supports may be required to enable effective participation in data reporting. This could include support for investment in weighing equipment and/or the development of a sector-wide protocol for quantifying textile flows. Any additional reporting requirements should be designed with regard to existing capacity constraints, to avoid placing disproportionate administrative burden on the sector without corresponding support.
- **Align data collection on waste textiles with the scope of EPR:** It is recommended that waste characterisation surveys of mixed waste streams, including municipal solid waste and skip waste, distinguish in their sub-categorisation of textile waste, between product categories that fall within and outside the scope of textiles EPR. In particular, heavier out-of-scope items, such as carpets, duvets, cushions and upholstery, should be clearly differentiated from in-scope product categories. Without this level of granularity, there is a risk that waste data may overstate the quantities of textiles relevant to EPR, thereby limiting the ability to accurately monitor scheme performance and assess progress in reducing textile waste. Improved categorisation would also support a clearer understanding of the scale and nature of bulky household textile waste, which presents distinct management challenges and may require separate policy responses.
- **Enhance understanding of textile flows outside the scope of EPR:** Continued efforts may be warranted to improve the evidence base for post-consumer textile flows that fall outside the scope of EPR reporting, including consumer-to-consumer swaps and resale via digital marketplaces. These flows are currently less visible within existing datasets but may represent a growing component of textile circulation.

- **Undertake periodic updates of the evidence base:** Repeating the NATEX study at appropriate intervals following the implementation of textiles EPR will support ongoing monitoring of trends, availability and quality of data for all post-consumer flows.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

This report presents the findings of a study undertaken in 2025-26 on the NATure and EXtent of TEXtiles consumption and post-consumer textiles (NATEX) in Ireland for the baseline year of 2023. The study has been completed by Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Limited (Arup) on behalf of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). It provides an update to the previous NATEX study, published by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2021[8].

The *Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2026-2028* (the 'Circular Economy Strategy' hereafter) and the *National Policy Statement & Roadmap on Circular Textiles 2026-2028* (the 'Textiles Roadmap') set out actions to advance circularity in the Irish textiles value chain. Both policy documents include an action to conduct a study to *"Develop baseline data on textile consumption and post-consumption to establish targets on textile waste prevention, collection, reuse and recycling"*.[9]

This study directly addresses this action, providing a comprehensive, quantitative baseline of the flows and fates of textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland, drawing on available data and collecting data not previously captured to address knowledge gaps. In doing so, it aims to improve the evidence base to inform policy interventions, and to support the Government in setting targets and monitoring progress. Based on the findings of the study, the report also presents conclusions and recommendations to improve data collection on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland.

[8] EPA (2021) *Nature and Extent of Post-consumer Textiles in Ireland – Study Report*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/nature-and-extent-of-post-consumer-textiles-in-ireland.php

[9] Refer to Action A39 of the Circular Economy Strategy, available at https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/7484ab1d/Circular-Economy_Strategy-2026-2028-en.pdf and Action No. 27 of the Textiles Roadmap, available at https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/2c88b353/National_Policy_Statement_Roadmap_on_Circular_Textiles_FINAL_BRANDED.pdf.

Key definitions

- **Textiles** are defined as products of clothing, footwear and interior furnishings (e.g., carpets, curtains, bedding, furniture) composed of at least 80% by weight of textile fibres, as set out in the EU Textile Labelling Regulation.[10]
- For the purposes of this study, '**post-consumer textiles**' refers to textile products that have been discarded, donated, swapped, sold or otherwise disposed of by consumers that no longer want or need them.
- The scope of this study is focussed on '**textile, textile-related or footwear products**' subject to extended producer responsibility (EPR), as listed in Annex IVc of the Waste Framework Directive (refer to **Appendix A**). In-scope textile products include finished textile products, including most types of clothes, shoes, hats, blankets and household linens; while unfinished textiles (i.e., fabrics, yarns and fibres) and categories including carpets, floor rugs, duvets, pillows, cushions, mattresses and cleaning cloths are out of scope.

1.2 Structure

This report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** introduces the report, setting out the aims and objectives of the study and providing the context in terms of the global textiles value chain and the policy context at European Union (EU) and national levels, and highlighting previous research related to the textiles value chain in Ireland.
- **Section 2** provides an overview of the methods used in the study and limitations.
- **Section 3** presents the findings of the study, quantifying and describing consumption of textile products and the various flows and fates of post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland in 2023. The findings of this study are primarily quantitative. However, where relevant, qualitative insights from stakeholder engagement are presented for context and to develop the knowledge base.
- **Sections 4** and **5** present the conclusions and recommendations of the study, respectively.

[10] Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2011 on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products and repealing Council Directive 73/44/EEC and Directives 96/73/EC and 2008/121/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011R1007-20180215.

1.3 The Textiles Value Chain

The textiles value chain in Ireland forms part of a wider, global system, which is increasingly complex and linear. Worldwide, textile production has almost tripled since the 1970s, fuelled by the advent and growth of synthetic fibres, especially polyester, which surpassed cotton as the most ubiquitous fibre in the 2000s and now accounts for over half of global fibre production.[11, 12]

Over the last century, textile production has shifted to countries with lower labour costs, particularly in South East Asia, while the manufacturing sector in developed nations, including in Europe, has declined markedly.[13, 14] Lower manufacturing costs, combined with other factors, have enabled the rise of fast fashion business models, in which consumers are offered trend-led, unsustainable textile products at prices that are low and falling relative to inflation.[15, 16]

Consumption of new textiles is increasing rapidly. Global consumption of clothing is projected to increase by 63% between 2015 and 2030.[17] Meanwhile, clothing utilisation – the average number of times a garment is worn – has fallen by 36% in just 15 years.[18] In

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[11] Statista (2026) *Production volume of chemical and textile fibers worldwide from 1975 to 2022*. Available at https://www.statista.com/statistics/263154/worldwide-production-volume-of-textile-fibers-since-1975/#:~:text=Global%20production%20volume%20of%20textile%20fibers%201975%2D2022&text=In%201975%2C%20approximately%2024%20million,surpassing%20113.8%20million%20metric%20tons.

[12] Textile Exchange (2025) *Materials Market Report*. Available at https://textileexchange.org/knowledge-center/reports/materials-market-report-2025/.

[13] EEA (2014) *Environmental Indicator Report 2014: Environmental Impacts of Production-Consumption Systems in Europe*. Available at https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2014.

[14] International Labour Organization (1996) *Globalization Changes the Face of Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industries*. Available at https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/globalization-changes-face-textile-clothing-and-footwear-industries#:~:text=GENEVA%20(ILO%20News)%20%2D%20The,levels%20and%20conditions%20of%20work.

[15] Niinimäki, K., Peters, G., Dahlbo, H., Perry, P., Rissanen, T. & Gwilt, A. (2020) The environmental price of fast fashion, *Nature Reviews: Earth & Environment*, 1, 189-200. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-020-0039-9.

[16] European Parliamentary Research Service (2022) *Briefing: Textiles and the environment*. Available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/729405/EPRS_BRI(2022)729405_EN.pdf.

[17] Global Fashion Agenda & Boston Consulting Group (2017) *Pulse of the Fashion Industry*. Available at https://globalfashionagenda.org/pulse-of-the-industry/.

[18] Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017) *A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future*. Available at https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/a-new-textiles-economy.

Ireland, 26% of people report buying clothing that they wear only a few times, while 53% of people acknowledged having clothes in their wardrobes that they seldom wear.[19]

Rising levels of production and consumption are further complicating the management of post-consumer textiles, already challenging due to the diverse and complex composition of textile products. Annually, an estimated 10.9 million tonnes of post-consumer textiles are generated in the EU – approximately 16kg per person.[20] The vast majority (89%) are discarded as municipal waste and ultimately incinerated or landfilled. The remainder are separately collected and redistributed for reuse, recycling, incineration or landfill.[21]

Reuse is an established circular strategy for the management of post-consumer textiles. Of the post-consumer textiles that are separately collected and sorted in the EU, roughly half are exported to third countries, mainly in Africa and Asia.[22] Exports of post-consumer textiles from the EU have almost tripled since 2000.[23] While these shipments are generally reported as 'export for reuse', there is uncertainty regarding ultimate fates due to limited visibility of downstream management and capacity of waste management systems in destination countries.[22, 24] A further 10% of separately collected textiles are reused locally in the EU through channels such as consumer-to-consumer resale, swapping, charity shops and second-hand and vintage retail.[21]

A smaller proportion of separately collected textiles – about a third in the EU – are sent for recycling. The vast majority of this is open-loop recycling for lower value applications, such as industrial wiping cloths or insulation – likely to represent the end use of these materials.[25]

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[19] EPA (2024) *Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours – 2nd National Survey*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/textiles-national-attitudes--behaviours-surveys/textiles-second-national-attitudes-and-behaviours-survey/.

[20] EEA (2025) *Circularity Metrics Lab: Textile waste generation per person in the EU per year*. Available at https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/circularity/sectoral-modules/textiles/textile-waste-generation-per-person-in-the-eu-per-year.

[21] Huygens, D., Foschi, J., Caro, D., Caldeira, C., Faraca, G., Foster, G., Solis, M., Marschinski, R., Napolano, L., Fruergaard Astrup, T. & Tonini, D. (2023) *Techno-scientific assessment of the management options for used and waste textiles in the European Union*. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. DOI: 10.2760/6292, JRC134586. Available at https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC134586.

[22] EEA (2023) *EU exports of used textiles in Europe's circular economy*. ETC/CE Report 2023/4. Available at https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-report-2023-4-eu-exports-of-used-textiles-in-europe2019s-circular-economy.

[23] EEA (2025) *Circularity Metrics Lab: EU Export of used textiles*. Available at https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/circularity/sectoral-modules/textiles/eu-export-of-used-textiles.

[24] Circle Economy (2023) *Destinations of Dutch Used Textiles – Uses and Risks after Export*. Available at https://www.circle-economy.com/resources/destinations-of-dutch-used-textiles.

[25] 'Open-loop' refers to recycling whereby the recycled material is used for a different market application than that of the previous life cycle, whereas in 'closed-loop' recycling, the recycled

Closed-loop, fibre-to-fibre recycling of textiles is at a relatively nascent stage due to a range of economic and technical barriers, including the low cost of virgin fibres, the need for high purity feedstocks and demand-side challenges.[21, 26] This is reflected in the low rate of circularity in the textiles value chain, with over 99% of textile fibres being produced from virgin materials.[27]

Environmental and social impacts are generated at all stages in the textiles value chain, with countries involved in production being disproportionately affected.[15] Over 300 million people are employed, formally and informally, along the value chain.[28] Some countries, such as Bangladesh, are heavily dependent on the sector, which may be the single largest provider of employment.[29] Textile factory workers frequently face low wages, exploitation and unsafe working conditions, including exposure to substances of concern and gender-based harassment and violence.[30, 31] Child labour and forced labour remain persistent issues.[32, 33]

material is reused for the same market application. In the case of textiles, closed-loop refers to the recovery of the recycled material to produce recycled fibres for use in new textile products (also referred to as 'fibre-to-fibre' recycling), whereas open-loop textile recycling involved the use of the recycled material for other applications (e.g., insulation material, wiping cloths or mattress stuffing), which typically represent lower value and final applications. There is no statutory definition of open- or closed-loop recycling; however, the concepts are defined based on academic literature in JRC report no. JRC131531, *'Towards a better definition and calculation of recycling'* (JRC, 2023).

[26] Roberts-Islam, B. (2024) What we can learn from Renewcell's financial struggles, *Forbes*, 27 February 2024. Available at https://www.forbes.com/sites/brookerobertsislam/2024/02/27/what-we-can-learn-from-renewcells-financial-struggles/.

[27] Circle Economy (2024) *The Circularity Gap Report: Textiles*. Available at https://www.circularity-gap.world/textiles.

[28] Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017) *A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future*. Available at https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/a-new-textiles-economy.

[29] Saha, K., Kumar Dey, P. & Kumar, V. (2024) A comprehensive review of circular economy research in the textile and clothing industry, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 444 (10), 141252. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2024.141252.

[30] UNEP (2023) *Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain – A Global Roadmap*. Available at https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/sustainability-and-circularity-textile-value-chain-global-roadmap.

[31] European Parliamentary Research Service (2020) *Briefing: Textile workers in developing countries and the European fashion industry – towards sustainability?* Available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/652025/EPRS_BRI(2020)652025_EN.pdf.

[32] Strand, V., Lotfi, M, Flynn, A. & Walker, H. (2024) A systematic literature review of modern slavery in supply chain management: State of the art, framework development and research opportunities, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 435(5), 140301. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.140301.

[33] UNICEF (2020) *Children's Rights in the Garment and Footwear Supply Chain – A Practical Tool for Integrating Children's Rights into Responsible Sourcing Framework*. Available at https://www.unicef.org/reports/childrens-rights-in-garment-and-footwear-supply-chain-2020.

According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), in terms of European consumption categories, textiles cause the fourth highest pressure on the environment and climate, following food, housing and mobility.[34] The sector is chemically intensive, using large quantities of agrochemicals to produce fibre crops like cotton, petrochemicals to produce synthetic fibres, and a range of chemical inputs in wet processes like dyeing and finishing. Both manufacturing and use phases consume substantial amounts of water and energy. Globally, the sector is estimated to use over 200 trillion litres of water and contribute 2-10% of annual greenhouse gas emissions.[30, 35, 36] Additionally, the washing of synthetic textiles during the use phase is a significant source of microplastic pollution in the marine environment.[30]

1.4 An Evolving Policy Context

There is a pressing need for policy interventions to improve circularity and sustainability in the textiles value chain. This is reflected in an evolving policy context for the textiles at EU and national levels.

Textiles are identified as a priority product value chain for policy interventions in EU circular economy policy, including the *Circular Economy Action Plan* (2020) and the updated *EU Industrial Strategy* (2021).[37, 38]

In 2022, the European Commission (EC) published its *EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles*, translating the ambitions of the *Circular Economy Action Plan* into detailed

[34] EEA (2025) *Textiles and the environment: the role of design in Europe's circular economy*. Available at https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/textiles-and-the-environment-the-role-of-design-in-europes-circular-economy-1?activeTab=fb83892f-219f-451c-80d1-8fd38d5f9266.

[35] Sadowski, M., Perkins, L. & McGarvey, E. (2021) *Roadmap to Net Zero: Delivering Science-Based Targets in the Apparel Sector*. World Resources Institute & Apparel Impact Institute. Available at https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/2021-11/roadmap-net-zero-delivering-science-based-targets-apparel-sector.pdf?VersionId=LxrwUSv9dHytM7zybuQgoJ8LUHBZVgM1.

[36] Olivar Aponte, N., Hernández Gómez, J., Torres Argüelles, V. & Smith, E. (2024) Fast fashion consumption and its environmental impact: a literature review, *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*, 20(1), 2381871. https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2024.2381871.

[37] EC (2020) *A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe*. Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933814386&uri=COM:2020:98:FIN.

[38] EC (2021) *Updating the 2020 Industrial Strategy: towards a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery*. Available at https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1884.

proposals for the textiles value chain.[39] The Strategy sets out the Commission's vision for the transition of the textiles sector whereby:

"By 2030 textile products placed on the EU market are long-lived and recyclable, to a great extent made of recycled fibres, free of hazardous substances and produced in respect of social rights and the environment. Consumers benefit longer from high quality affordable textiles, fast fashion is out of fashion, and economically profitable re-use and repair services are widely available. In a competitive, resilient and innovative textiles sector, producers take responsibility for their products along the value chain, including when they become waste. The circular textiles ecosystem is thriving, driven by sufficient capacities for innovative fibre-to-fibre recycling, while the incineration and landfilling of textiles is reduced to the minimum."

The Strategy outlines proposals for a range of circular textiles policies, including an EU-wide textiles EPR scheme[40], mandatory ecodesign requirements, and restrictions on the export of post-consumer textiles to non-OECD countries.

In 2023, the EC published its *Transition Pathway for the Textiles Ecosystem*, identifying 50 actions to support the resilience and competitiveness of the EU textiles sector in the context of the digital and green transitions.[41] The Transition Pathway aims to support circular business models in the textiles sector, create demand for circular textiles through awareness campaigns, and promote the establishment of innovative textile sorting and recycling hubs across Europe.

A new EU Waste Shipment Regulation entered into force in May 2024.[42] The Regulation aims to prevent exports of textile waste to countries without the capacity to ensure proposed management. It will ban the export of non-hazardous waste, including textiles, to non-OECD countries from 21 May 2027. Non-OECD countries wishing to continue to import such

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[39] EC (2022) *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles*. Available at EUR-Lex - 52022DC0141 - EN - EUR-Lex.

[40] Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which producers (manufacturers and sellers) are required to finance the collection and environmentally sound management of their products at end-of-life, including the infrastructure needed for sorting, reuse, repair and recycling. EPR is one mechanism that gives effect to the 'polluter pays' principle, a core principle of EU environmental policy, which stipulates that polluters should be responsible for paying the price of measures needed to prevent, control and remedy pollution.

[41] EC: DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (2023) *Transition pathway for the textiles ecosystem*. Available at https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6392f189-0416-11ee-87ec-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

[42] Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006. Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1157/oj/eng.

wastes must submit a request to the EC and provide evidence of their ability to manage it in an environmentally sound manner. This pro[43]cess is ongoing and an initial list of non-OECD countries authorised to import certain non-hazardous waste from EU Member States is scheduled for adoption in November 2026.[44, 45, 46]

The EU Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), which entered into force in July 2024, provides the framework for the EC's ecodesign policy to promote more circular and sustainable products in the EU.[47] Textiles are identified as a priority product category under the ESPR Working Plan, adopted in April 2025. The ESPR will see the introduction of ecodesign requirements for textiles products aimed at improving durability, repairability, recyclability and recycled content.

The ESPR also introduces a requirement for Digital Product Passports (DPPs) for textile products that will provide accessible, product-specific information related to sustainability and circularity. Product-specific rules for DPPs are expected to be introduced commencing in early 2027.

The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation is the EU's primary framework for managing chemical risks, placing responsibility on industry to assess and manage the risks that chemicals pose to human health and the environment.[48] REACH restricts the use of certain hazardous substances in textiles being

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44 Requests for inclusion have been received from Andorra, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Lao DPR, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Vietnam.

45 EC (2026) *Implementation of the Waste Shipment Regulation*. Available at https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-shipments/implementation-waste-shipment-regulation_en#:~:text=Non%2DOECD%20country%20authorities%20wishing,send%20one%20to%20the%20Commission.

46 EC (2026) *List of non-OECD countries authorised to import certain non-hazardous waste from the EU*. Available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14861-List-of-non-OECD-countries-authorised-to-import-certain-non-hazardous-waste-from-the-EU_en.

47 Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products, amending Directive (EU) 2020/1828 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC. Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02024R1781-20240628.

48 Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and

placed on the EU market, thereby preventing these substances from entering the post-consumer textile value chain and disrupting potential textile reuse or recycling opportunities.

Under the Waste Framework Directive, Member States have been required to provide for the separate collection of textiles since January 2025. A targeted revision to the Directive, which entered into force in October 2025, introduces a requirement for mandatory harmonised EPR for textile products, to be established by Member States by 17 April 2028.[49] This will require producers to finance the separate collection and management of post-consumer textiles through the payment of eco-modulated fees, whereby less sustainable products will incur greater fees. Producer responsibility organisation (PROs) will provide for the fulfilment of EPR obligations on behalf of producers and establish nationwide systems for the separate collection of post-consumer textiles.

The revised Directive also clarifies the waste status of separately collected post-consumer textiles. Member States must ensure that separately collected post-consumer textiles are considered waste upon collection, except where these are handed over by end users and directly professionally assessed as being fit for reuse at the collection point by a reuse operator or social economy entity, such as a charity. Separately collected post-consumer textiles must be subject to detailed sorting, prioritising reuse, in accordance with waste hierarchy and adhering to end-of-waste criteria currently being developed by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC).[50]

The revised Directive also provides for greater control of shipments of post-consumer textiles exported for reuse. These shipments may be inspected by competent authorities and must be accompanied by documentation. This will include invoices and contracts of sale, proof of prior sorting and assessment as fit for reuse (in accordance with end-of-waste criteria), and declarations that none of the material is waste. Shipments of waste textiles will be subject to the Waste Shipment Regulation.

The revised Directive and introduction of textiles EPR in 2028 will have significant implications for the financing and regulation of the post-consumer textiles value chain in Ireland and across the EU. It will introduce reporting requirements regarding the sale of

2000/21/EC. Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02006R1907-20251023.

[49] Directive (EU) 2025/1892 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 September 2025 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste. Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025L1892&qid=1760531838376

[50] EC (n.d.) *End-of-waste*. Available at https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/projects-and-activities/circular-resource-management/end-waste_en

textiles and generation and management of used and waste textiles – implications of the Directive for data collection and monitoring of the post-consumer textiles value chain are further discussed in **Section 4**.

The forthcoming EU Circular Economy Act, due to be adopted in the second half of 2026, will build on the EU *Circular Economy Action Plan*, supporting supply and demand for recycled materials in the EU. In August 2025, the EC launched a public consultation and call for evidence to inform the Act. Textiles specific elements or proposals under the Act are as of yet unknown.

The Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (Directive (EU) 2024/825), due to be adopted in 2026, addresses misleading environmental claims and improves the quality of sustainability-related information available to consumers. It prohibits generic or unsubstantiated 'green' claims, introduces stricter requirements for sustainability labels, and mandates enhanced information on product durability, repairability and lifecycle characteristics. The Directive is expected to drive greater transparency, accountability and alignment with circular economy objectives.

A revision to the EU Textile Labelling Regulation is proposed for 2026, to harmonise rules on the labelling of textile products and ensure that consumers have access to all relevant information, including in relation to circularity.[51] The Regulation also supports traceability and correct downstream processing of post-consumer textiles in support of fibre-to-fibre recycling.

At the national level, the 2020 *Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy* identified Government commitments related to circular textiles, including a review of the regulation of clothing banks and the establishment of a textile sector advisory group.[52] The Plan also included the commitment to support improved data on the nature and extent of post-consumer textiles, setting out the need for the present study.

In 2022, DCEE established a Textiles Advisory Group (TAG) as a sub-group of the Waste Advisory Group. The group, which includes industry representatives and regulators, considers opportunities to enhance circularity in the textiles value chain in Ireland.[53]

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[51] EC (n.d.) *Review of Regulation (EU) 1007/2011*. Available at: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/textiles-ecosystem/review-regulation-eu-10072011_en.

[52] DCEE (2020) *Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy*. Available at https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/publications/waste-action-plan-for-a-circular-economy/.

[53] Information on the Textile Advisory Group available at https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/publications/textiles-advisory-group/

In 2024, the TAG published *Recommendations to the Minister of State with Responsibility for the Circular Economy* to inform the Textiles Roadmap.[54] The report highlighted key challenges, including the lack of robust data on post-consumer textiles and inconsistency in the classification of post-consumer textiles as waste to support data collection. The TAG recommended the introduction of a textiles EPR at the earliest convenience to finance infrastructure for the management of post-consumer textiles, as well as regulation of post-consumer textiles and clothing banks under waste legislation, while prioritising reuse.

In February 2026, DCEE published the *Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2026-2028: Accelerating Action* (the 'Circular Economy Strategy'). Textiles are identified as a key sector for circular economy interventions in the Strategy. The Textiles chapter of the Strategy identifies specific actions and targets for the sector, including the development of the national textiles EPR scheme, improving separate collection, promoting green public procurement (GPP) for textiles, and developing improved baseline data on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles by 2027.

In April 2026, DCEE published the *National Policy Statement and Roadmap on Circular Textiles 2026-2028* (the 'Textiles Roadmap'), setting out the Government's vision and policies for a more circular and sustainable textiles sector in Ireland. The Textiles Roadmap acknowledges that textiles are a valuable resource and places an emphasis on tackling over-consumption and production, developing EPR, and prioritising reuse and repair. It identifies strategic policy objectives for the sector including *"to optimise a resilient, regulated and transparent separate collection system for post-consumer textiles funded by an [EPR] scheme, driven by the waste hierarchy, our circular economy ambitions, the Sustainable Development Goals, with a priority focus on reuse in Ireland and across the EU"*.

The Textiles Roadmap sets out the Government's commitment to develop and implement the national EPR scheme for textiles, divert post-consumer textiles from the municipal waste stream, and enhance national infrastructure for separate collection. As noted in **Section 1**, the Textiles Roadmap includes an action to complete the present study.

The above-described policy measures will significantly influence how post-consumer textiles are managed in Ireland. The planned introduction of textiles EPR from April 2028 is the key policy development – it will provide essential finance to support the collection, sorting and management of post-consumer textiles. Eco-modulated EPR fees, together with ecodesign requirements under the ESPR, are expected to drive the production of more circular and

[54] DCEE (2024) *National Textiles Advisory Group – Recommendations to the Minister of State with responsibility for the Circular Economy*. Available at https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/publications/textiles-advisory-group/.

sustainable textile products, increasing the reusability and recyclability of materials entering the post-consumer stream. Strengthened restrictions on exports of used textiles and textile waste under the EPR scheme and the revised Waste Shipment Regulation will help curb harmful export practices. End-of-waste criteria for textiles will provide further regulation of the sorting of separately collected post-consumer textiles. Taken together, these policy developments are poised to bring about substantial change in Ireland's post-consumer textiles value chain.

For further details of the key national, EU and multilateral policies and findings from legislation related to circularity in the textiles value chain, refer to the Textiles Roadmap, which provides a comprehensive review. Further discussion of the implications of these policy developments for data collection on the textiles value chain is provided in **Section 4**.

1.5 Previous Research

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commissioned the first NATEX study, published in 2021.[55] This first NATEX study provided *"an initial estimate for post-consumer textile flows in Ireland"* for the baseline year of 2019, made recommendations to promote textile circularity, and noted knowledge gaps and uncertainty, particularly in relation to post-consumer textiles not reported as waste. The study highlighted *"a pressing need to obtain better data on flows and the fate of post-consumer textiles; for both textiles that are waste and textiles that are not waste"*. The first NATEX study informed the work of the National Textiles Advisory Group, the new Textiles Roadmap and the present study.

In 2024, DCEE commissioned an addendum to the *Circularity Gap Report Ireland* to improve the evidence base on post-consumer textiles.[56] The conclusions of the report highlighted a *"general lack of data for monitoring post-consumer textile waste"* and recommended *"further research to better understand what exactly happens to Ireland's used textiles"*.

As noted above, the need for a more comprehensive baseline of post-consumer textiles in Ireland has been highlighted in a number of government publications and policy documents, including the Circular Economy Strategy, the Textiles Roadmap, the *Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy*, and the recommendations of the Textiles Advisory Group.

[55] EPA (2021) *Nature and Extent of Post-Consumer Textiles in Ireland – Study Report*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/nature-and-extent-of-post-consumer-textiles-in-ireland.php

[56] Circle Economy (2024) *The Circularity Gap Report Ireland – A circular transition for post-consumer textiles*. Available at https://www.circularity-gap.world/ireland.

The present study builds on the findings of previous research to provide a more comprehensive baseline on the quantities and fates of post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland. This will support effective implementation of evidence-based policies and legislation related to textiles, and the monitoring of progress over time.

2 Methods

2.1 Overview

The study was delivered in three overarching phases with some overlap, comprising data scoping, data collection and data analysis.

- **Data scoping**: An initial data scoping exercise was undertaken to ensure an efficient and comprehensive data collection process. Based on previous research, including the first NATEX study, inflows (textiles consumption) and outflows (post-consumer textiles) were mapped out. For each flow, known and potential sources of data were identified. Priority flows, datasets and data sources were identified. A stakeholder engagement strategy was also developed.
- **Data collection**: Data was collected through a range of approaches, including downloading publicly available datasets, submitting information requests via email, and direct engagement with stakeholders through online and in-person interviews and site visits. A total of eight site visits were undertaken in Ireland and Northern Ireland, as well as approximately 16 interviews and phone calls. Qualitative and quantitative data were obtained from a broad range of stakeholders, as summarised in **Section 2.3**, below.
- **Data analysis**: Data were collated and analysed using Microsoft Excel and PowerBI.

Data collected as part of this study have been aggregated and anonymised to preserve the anonymity of participants, particularly for reasons of commercial sensitivity. Where information is provided on a specific organisation or initiative, this has been agreed with the organisation in question.

2.2 Scope

The scope of the study includes textile consumption and post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland in the baseline year of 2023, which was selected as the baseline year due to the likelihood of complete, validated data being available. Where relevant data were not available for 2023, data from the closest available year were used, and this is acknowledged in the relevant sections of this report. In a few cases, information is presented in this report on organisations or initiatives that were not launched in 2023 but are nevertheless considered relevant to provide a complete picture of the post-consumer textiles ecosystem in Ireland. This is clearly highlighted, where relevant, to avoid confusion.

Where relevant and possible, the scope of data collection was limited to categories of textiles listed in Annex IVc of the Waste Framework Directive, which identifies product categories by Combined Nomenclature (CN) code that will fall within the scope of the EPR scheme for textiles. These categories of 'textile, textile-related and footwear products' are listed in **Appendix A**. In-scope textile products include finished textile products, including most types of clothes, shoes, hats, blankets and household linens; while unfinished textiles (i.e., fabrics, yarns and fibres) and product categories such as carpets, floor rugs, duvets, pillows, cushions, mattresses and cleaning cloths are out of scope.

When gathering data on textile waste, where possible, the scope was limited to the List of Waste (LoW)/European Waste Catalogue (EWC) codes listed in **Appendix B**, which relate to post-consumer textile waste from finished textile products rather than post-industrial waste from processing of raw textile fibres, for example.

While the study addresses the primary destinations of post-consumer textiles exported for reuse or recycling, the ultimate fate of these textiles – onward destinations; proportions reused, recycled or disposed of; parties involved – is outside the scope.

The scope of this study does not include the use phase of textile products – in other words, the study does not quantify textiles stored in Irish households. Research by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) found that adults in the UK store substantial quantities of clothing (118 items on average), of which roughly a quarter (26%) goes unworn for a year or more.[57] Research indicates a median use time of four to five years, but this varies substantially depending on garment type.[58, 59, 60] This is consistent with EPA survey findings on clothing longevity in Ireland.[61]

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[57] WRAP (2022) *Citizen Insights: Clothing Longevity and Circular Business Models Receptivity in the UK*. Available at https://www.wrap.ngo/resources/report/citizen-insights-clothing-longevity-and-circular-business-models-receptivity-uk.

[58] Vermeyen, V., Alaets, L., Worrell, E., Van Acker, K. & Germeys, F. (2026) Unravelling the service lifespan of garments – empirical insights on use time and use intensity, *Cleaner and Responsible Consumption*, 21, 100398. Available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clrc.2026.100398.

[59] WRAP (2022) *Citizen Insights: Clothing Longevity and Circular Business Models Receptivity in the UK – Key Findings Report*. Available at https://www.wrap.ngo/sites/default/files/2023-05/Citizen%20Insights%20-%20Clothing%20Longevity%20and%20CBM%20Receptivity%20in%20the%20UK.pdf.

[60] Laitala, K. & Grimstad Klepp, I. (2020) What affects garment lifespans? International clothing practices based on a wardrobe survey in China, Germany, Japan, the UK, and the USA, *Sustainability*, 12, 9151. Available at https://doi.org/10.3390/su12219151.

[61] EPA (2024) *Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours – 2nd National Survey*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/textiles-national-attitudes--behaviours-surveys/textiles-second-national-attitudes-and-behaviours-survey/.

2.3 Key Data Sources

Sources of data are highlighted, where relevant, throughout the report. The following points highlight key sources of official data to inform the study.

- Municipal solid waste statistics for 2023, waste characterisation reports, and data on textile waste transferred to/from licensed facilities, provided by the EPA;
- Textiles import/export data by country, in tonnes and value, for in-scope Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and CN codes from 2024-2010, provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO);
- PRODCOM data on domestic industrial production of textiles by value and volume, for in-scope NACE codes from 2023-2010, obtained from the CSO's PxStat Open Data Platform;[62]
- Textile waste movements (primary and secondary) in tonnes by LoW code, as reported in annual returns, provided by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO);
- Textile waste shipments in tonnes by LoW code and export destination, as reported in TFS notifications; and data on exports of used clothing; provided by the National Transfrontier Shipment Office (NTFSO).

Quantitative data were also obtained from non-governmental, private and charity sector stakeholders. Stakeholders engaged include organisations from the waste management, charity retail, commercial fashion retail and postal sectors, as well as specialist textile sorters and clothes swap initiatives. To prevent the disclosure of commercially sensitive information, data from stakeholders engaged have been anonymised and aggregated, except in relation to specific case studies.

2.4 Limitations

As shown in **Figure 1.1**, the estimates of textile streams presented in this study do not always align across the value chain. For example, textile consumption (121,007 tonnes, or 24 kg/person) differs from post-consumer textile generation (160,273 tonnes, or 31 kg/person). Similarly, the quantity of textiles discarded as waste (112,159 tonnes) differs from the combined quantities reported for the various textile waste management fates (100,765 tonnes). Several factors contribute to these differences, as outlined below:

[62] CSO (n.d.) *Central Statistics Office – Data*. Available at https://data.cso.ie/.

- Data used in this study were obtained from a range of sources, including public bodies and authorities, charities and private sector organisations. These sources use different methods to quantify textiles at different points in the value chain, and the data vary in completeness and quality. As a result, estimates are not expected to align exactly across streams.
- As noted in **Section 2.2**, the scope of this study is limited, where possible, to textile product categories that will be subject to textiles EPR, as listed in **Appendix A**. CSO data related to textile consumption include CN codes, allowing the data to be filtered to include only in-scope products. In many cases, however, post-consumer textile data cannot be filtered in the same way to exclude out-of-scope textile categories.
- As detailed in **Section 3.1**, coverage limitations in the CSO trade and domestic production datasets mean that textile consumption is likely to be underestimated.
- The results of this study represent a one-year snapshot of the textiles value chain. Textile products are not purchased and disposed of on a one-to-one basis, so consumption and post-consumer textile generation are not expected to align exactly in any given year. Textiles are usually owned for several years before being sold, donated or disposed of, often in batches, for example during a ‘clear out’.
- As detailed in **Section 3.2.1**, textiles discarded as waste are mostly placed in mixed waste streams, such as household bins and skips. Once mixed with other wastes, textiles become more difficult to quantify accurately and consistently. Estimates are based on waste characterisation surveys, which involve periodic sampling, sorting and weighing of bin contents to estimate the relative proportions of different waste types. The total quantity of each waste type, including textiles, is then estimated by extrapolating from the overall tonnage of the mixed waste stream. This approach is challenging for textiles because they tend to be disposed of in batches rather than continuously, which affects the representativeness of samples. Textiles can also absorb moisture, increasing their weight and potentially distorting estimates.

In all cases, the best available data have been used to inform the study. Nevertheless, for the reasons outlined above, there is uncertainty in the estimates presented in this report. Where relevant, dataset-specific challenges are highlighted in the relevant sections. **Section 4** provides a more detailed discussion of the difficulties associated with collecting robust data on textiles in Ireland, while **Section 5** sets out recommendations to address these challenges.

3 Results

The following sections present the results of the NATEX study for 2023. **Section 3.1** outlines textiles consumption in Ireland during the baseline year and examines trends since 2010. **Section 3.2** details and quantifies the various flows and end fates of post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland in 2023. Finally, **Section 3.3** summarises the quantitative findings and includes a Sankey diagram that visually illustrates the textiles value chain in Ireland in 2023.

3.1 Textiles Consumption

Data were obtained from the CSO in relation to trade and domestic production of textile products, and population.[63, 64, 65] Data were collected for specific CN codes and corresponding SITC codes aligning with categories of textile products in the scope of the study (refer to **Appendix A**). These data were used to estimate annual consumption of textile products in Ireland from 2010 to 2023, using the formula below.

> *Net consumption of textiles = imports (new and used) + domestic production – exports (new and used)*

The results, illustrated in **Figure 3.1,** indicate a trend of increasing consumption over the past decade, more than tripling from 36,985 tonnes (8 kg/person) in 2010 to 121,007 tonnes (24 kg/person) in 2023. This differs from the overall EU trend, which shows a relatively stable rate of textiles consumption over the same period.[66]

[63] Goods exports and imports in tonnes for in-scope CN/SITC codes for 2010-2023, inclusive – provided by CSO

[64] Industrial production by sector (PRODCOM) in value (€) and quantity for NACE codes corresponding with in-scope CN codes for 2010-2023, inclusive – downloaded from CSO website: https://data.cso.ie/product/PCOM

[65] Population statistics for 2010-2023, inclusive – downloaded from CSO website: https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/population/

[66] EEA (2025) *Consumption of clothing, footwear and household textiles per person*. Available at: https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/circularity/sectoral-modules/textiles/consumption-of-clothing-footwear-and-household-textiles-per-person?activeTab=658e2886-cfbf-4c2f-a603-061e1627a515.

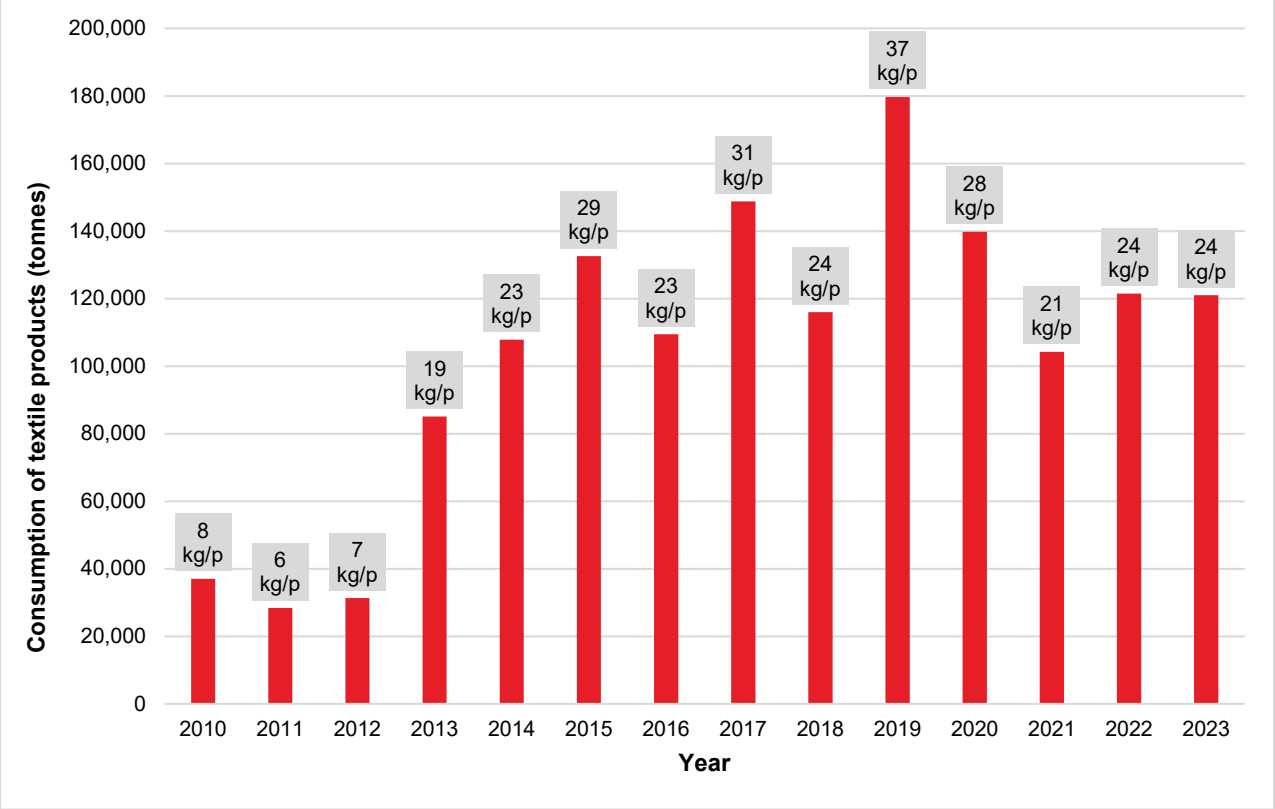

Figure 3.1: Consumption of textile products in Ireland, 2010 to 2023 (tonnes), incl. per capita consumption (kg/person)

Overall consumption of textile products in 2023 is estimated at **121,007 tonnes**, which equates to approximately **24 kg/person** (**Table 3.1**). This is 26% higher than the EU average of 19 kg/person in 2022 reported by the European Environment Agency (EEA).[67]

Overall consumption of textiles in 2023 (121,007 tonnes) was calculated using trade and domestic production data as described above, factoring in:

- Imports of in-scope textile products (146,969 tonnes), of which 146,719 tonnes were new textile products and 250 tonnes were used textile products [68];
- Domestic production of in-scope textile products (1,545 tonnes); and
- Exports of in-scope textile products (27,507 tonnes), of which 14,760 tonnes were new textile products and 12,474 tonnes were used textile products.

[67] EEA (2025) *Measuring Europe's textiles circularity – through the lenses of the EEA Circularity Metrics Lab*. ETC CE Report 2025/7. Available at https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-report-2025-7-measuring-europe2019s-textiles-circularity-2013-through-the-lenses-of-the-eea-circularity-metrics-lab.

[68] Recorded as CN code 63090000, 'Worn clothing and other worn articles', used in customs declarations for second-hand textile products.

As highlighted by these figures, used textiles (250 tonnes) account for a very small proportion (<1%) of textile imports to Ireland, which are dominated by new products. Domestic production (1,545 tonnes) is also at a low level compared to imports (1%).

As documented in **Section 3.2**, this study has estimated the quantity of post-consumer textiles that were reused in Ireland in 2023 (e.g., through charity shops, resale on digital marketplaces and clothes swaps) as 15,902 tonnes. When this domestic reuse is included, the overall consumption figure for 2023 increases to 136,909 tonnes, which is equivalent to 27 kg/person (**Table 3.1**).

Table 3.1: Textiles consumption in 2023

Textiles consumption – source	Overall consumption	Per capita consumption
Imports and domestic production	121,007 tonnes	24 kg/person
Reuse in Ireland	15,902 tonnes	3 kg/person
Total	136,909 tonnes	27 kg/person

These figures are less than those reported in the previous NATEX study, which estimated overall consumption of 263,000 tonnes, or 53 kg/person, in Ireland in 2019, based on imports and domestic production. This difference may be partly attributed to the use of a more specific sub-set of product categories in the present study.[69] Nevertheless, as illustrated by **Figure 3.1**, it appears there has been a reduction in overall textiles consumption in Ireland relative to a peak in 2019.

It should be noted that there are constraints in the CSO datasets on trade and domestic production. For example, it is understood that trade data are not fully inclusive of all e-commerce transactions, which is noteworthy given the prevalence of online shopping in the sector. Additionally, a proportion of the domestic production data have been redacted to avoid disclosing commercially sensitive information. As a result, overall and per capita textile

[69] The previous NATEX study included imports and exports of products in SITC2 categories 65, 84 and 85. This study has included a more specific sub-set of SITC5 codes within SITC2 categories 26, 65, 84 and 85, which correspond to the CN codes listed in Annex IVc of the Waste Framework Directive defining the scope of textiles EPR. The approach used in the present study aligns the scope with textiles EPR. It includes used textile products, while excluding raw textile fibres and fabrics, industrial and technical textiles and carpets from the analysis of textiles consumption, which is consistent with the methodology used by the EEA in calculating average textiles consumption in the EU (2025).

consumption as estimated in this study are likely to represent underestimates to some extent.

3.2 Post-consumer Textiles

As noted in **Section 1**, 'post-consumer textiles' refers to textile products that have been discarded, donated, swapped, sold or otherwise disposed of by consumers that no longer want or need them. As detailed in the following sections, consumers in Ireland are using a range of potential options to manage their unwanted textile products, including:

- Consumer-to-consumer resale through digital marketplaces;
- Resale to commercial second-hand or vintage retailers;
- Formal and informal clothes swaps;
- Donation to charity;
- In-store drop-off to retailers operating collection schemes;
- Placement in charity or commercial textile banks;
- Disposal in household and non-household kerbside bins;
- Disposal in household and non-household skips; and
- In the case of commercial operators, arranging dedicated collection by authorised waste collectors.

Post-consumer textiles being directed to these various streams include a mix of 'waste' and 'non-waste' textiles with varying suitability for reuse or recycling in Ireland or abroad. The term 'used textiles' is not used synonymously with 'post-consumer textiles' – stakeholder engagement and site visits indicate that the post-consumer textiles stream includes a proportion of new textile products that have had little or no use, some of which still have tags/labels on, but which consumers no longer want or need. This study has found that, in 2023, **160,273 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles were generated in Ireland, which equates to 31 kg of post-consumer textiles per person. Of this, approximately two-thirds (**70%**, **112,159 tonnes**) were discarded by consumers as waste in the first instance – particularly through disposal in household bins. The remaining third of post-consumer textiles (**30%**, **48,113 tonnes**) were separately collected and directed to more circular streams, including charity retailers, specialist textile sorters and retailer collection schemes.

The following sections describe and quantify the flows and fates of post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland in 2023 under the headings of the various collection streams, in decreasing order of magnitude (tonnes collected). Collectively, this provides an account of the downstream textiles value chain in Ireland.

Textile Banks

Textile banks (or 'clothes banks') are large metal receptacles used for the separate collection of post-consumer textiles. They typically feature a hatch for depositing items, a locked door for emptying the bank, and protective fittings to prevent theft and vandalism (**Figure 3.2**). Textile banks are generally located outdoors in publicly accessible areas, such as Local Authority civic amenity sites and bring banks, car parks of supermarkets, schools, community centres, and sports clubs. A wide network of textile banks exists across the country. In many cases, textile banks are provided and operated by third parties on behalf of other organisations (e.g., provided by textile sorters on behalf of Local Authorities or charities).

Textile banks provide convenient collection points for post-consumer textiles, especially where accessible alternatives, such as charity shops, are not available locally. However, stakeholder engagement has identified a number of challenges associated with textile banks, including high installation and collection costs, limited capacity, and the potential for overflow leading to weather-damaged items and litter. Stakeholders report that textiles collected via banks are generally lower in quality and value than alternative channels, which affects reuse potential. As they are often located at unattended sites, textile banks are susceptible to theft, vandalism, tampering, and historically to the placement of *"bogus banks"*, though these issues have declined with the market value of post-consumer textiles. Additional problems have been reported, including low-quality items being switched between banks upon collection. Several stakeholders have reported scaling back the use of textile banks in favour of other collection methods.

Quantifying the volume of textiles collected through textile banks is challenging due to a lack of regulation of banks outside Local Authority civic amenity sites, inconsistent or incomplete reporting, and the potential for misreporting by operators related to ambiguity regarding the waste/non-waste status of textiles collected. The role of Local Authorities in the provision of textile banks is addressed further in **Section 3.2.2**, below.

The new Textiles Recycling Map, launched by MyWaste.ie in April 2026 identifies the location of post-consumer textile collection points nationwide, with the aim of providing the public with clear and reliable information on options available for managing unwanted textiles. The map currently includes Local Authority textile banks and it is intended to be expanded to include additional options, such as commercial textile banks operated by sorters and charities.

Figure 3.2: A typical textile bank

3.2.1 Post-consumer Textiles Discarded as Waste

Based on data obtained from the EPA and NWCPO, it is estimated that, in 2023, approximately **112,159 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles were discarded as waste.[70] This equates to 22 kg of textile waste per person. **Table 3.2** presents the approximate breakdown of the sources of these waste textiles.

Table 3.2: Post-consumer textiles discarded as waste in 2023 – sources

[70] Including clothing, textiles packaging and textiles non-packaging; not including healthcare textiles and nappies.

	Kerbside household	Kerbside non-household	Skip waste	Litter	Pure textile waste	Total
Quantity (tonnes)	68,018	21,539	21,190	1,309	103	112,159
% of total	61%	19%	19%	>1%	<1%	

Based on EPA waste statistics and waste characterisation data, the majority of post-consumer textile waste in 2023 was disposed of in municipal solid waste streams from household and non-household sources. Most of this was generated by households and individuals placing textiles in household bins (61%, 68,018 tonnes). Of the textiles disposed of in household bins, approximately 89% were placed in residual waste bins, 10% in mixed dry recyclable bins, and 1% in organic waste bins.[71] A further 19% (21,539 tonnes) of textile waste in 2023 originated from non-household kerbside bins, including from commercial enterprises.

Based on the skip waste characterisation data published by the EPA, it is estimated that in 2023, a total of 21,190 tonnes of post-consumer textiles were disposed of in skips. Of this, approximately 76% was placed in non-household skips, 21% in household skips and 2% in civic amenity site skips.[72] The data indicate that textiles packaging and clothing account for, on average, approximately 4%, 2% and 4% (by weight) of total skip waste in non-household, household, and civic amenity sites skips, respectively.

It should be noted that the EPA data divide textile waste in skips into three categories: ‘textiles packaging’ (430 tonnes), ‘textiles non-packaging – clothes’ (20,760 tonnes) and ‘textiles non-packaging – other than clothes’ (41,393 tonnes). The latter category includes both in-scope product categories (including blankets and curtains) as well as out-of-scope product categories (including carpets, cushions, duvets and upholstery).

Given the nature of skip waste and the relative weight of these out-of-scope items, it is considered likely that the overall tonnage for this category is proportionately dominated by these heavier, out-of-scope materials. On this basis, it is considered that inclusion of this category would risk significantly overstating the quantity of post-consumer textiles falling within scope in the skip waste stream and could, therefore, lead to misinterpretation of the

[71] EPA (2023) Household Kerbside Municipal Waste Characterisation Report. Available at: 2022 Household Municipal Waste Characterisation Report | Environmental Protection Agency

[72] EPA (2024) Skip Waste Characterisation Study. EPA-Skip-Waste-Characterisation-Report-2024.pdf

results. Accordingly, the 'textiles non-packaging – other than clothes' category has been excluded from the estimate of post-consumer textiles disposed of in skips for the purposes of this study. It is acknowledged, however, that this approach also results in the exclusion of an unknown quantity of in-scope items.

Unwanted textiles are also illegally disposed of as litter. According to EPA data, an estimated 1,309 tonnes (>1% of total) of textiles were discarded as litter in 2023. Fly-tipping is not considered to be a significant issue in relation to textiles, which can be disposed of relatively easily free of charge.

Small quantities of pure post-consumer textile waste (i.e., not mixed with other wastes) are also generated by the activities of certain organisations. For example, small quantities of post-consumer textiles deemed unsuitable for reuse or recycling are discarded by specialist textile sorters and some charities (refer to **Sections 3.2.3** and **3.2.2**, respectively). Additionally, some organisations procure shredding services to destroy staff uniforms for security reasons, which also results in a pure textile waste stream. Data from the NWCPO indicates that approximately 103 tonnes of pure post-consumer textile waste were generated in 2023, which represents a very small proportion (<1%) of the total.

Post-consumer textiles that are discarded as waste in Ireland are typically directed to one of four fates – incineration with energy recovery in waste-to-energy facilities in Ireland, co-incineration as solid recovered fuel (SRF) in cement kilns in Ireland or overseas, disposal to landfill, or export for further treatment. The apportionment of these fates in 2023 is presented in **Table 3.3**.

Table 3.3: Fates of post-consumer textiles discarded as waste in 2023

	Incineration with energy recovery	Co-incineration (SRF)	Landfill	Export for further treatment	Total
Quantity (tonnes)	46,970	38,107	15,688	0.2	**100,765**
% of total	47%	38%	16%	<1%	

The vast majority (85%) of post-consumer textiles discarded as waste in Ireland in 2023 were incinerated, either in one of the two waste-to-energy facilities in the country, or through co-incineration of SRF in cement kilns in Ireland or overseas. SRF is a refuse-derived fuel that is used to partially substitute traditional fuels such as pet coke used in cement

manufacturing. It is produced by several waste management companies in Ireland using residual wastes including plastics, paper, cardboard and textiles, for use domestically and for export.[73]

Based on the average rate of landfilling of municipal waste in Ireland, it is estimated that approximately 16% of waste textiles were disposed of in authorised landfills, of which there were three in Ireland, in 2023.

Data from the NWCPO and NTFSO indicates that a small proportion of pure textile waste (0.2 tonnes) was exported in 2023 for treatment. Available information suggests that this was textile packaging contaminated with hazardous material sent to another Member State for treatment and recovery.

As is evident from **Table 3.2** and **Table 3.3**, above, there is a difference between the estimated generation of post-consumer textile waste (112,159 tonnes) and the sum of textiles directed to various waste management streams (100,765 tonnes). This difference reflects a range of factors relating to the nature of the study – which draws on quantitative data from a range of different stakeholders and different stages in the value chain – and inherent challenges associated with quantifying textile waste. A detailed discussion is provided in **Section 2.4**.

Local Authority Recycling Centres and Bring Banks

The 31 Local Authorities in Ireland – comprising 26 County Councils, three City Councils, and two City and County Councils – operate a nationwide network of bring banks and civic amenity sites (CAS) (or 'recycling centres'), to which members of the public can bring a range of household waste materials for management. Waste streams accepted vary from site to site.

Locally Authorities have contracts with third parties, including charities and specialist textile sorters, for the provision of textile banks at their CAS and, sometimes, at bring banks outside of CAS. Based on information provided by the local government sector, it is estimated that, at the time of publication, there are 95 CAS and at least 534 bring bank locations across the country.

[73] AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited (2013). *Research into SRF and RDF Exports to Other EU Countries – Final Report*. [Report prepared for the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)]. Available at: https://www.ciwm.co.uk/Custom/BSIDocumentSelector/Pages/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=QoR7FzWBtisamYEcWSfL6SxAJRLAPT9vf9UOxY7TX%252bRTmuWeo5keV9skGlWyOY%252bUp7ncAXRDbF5GQWy%252bL3ZD1svIqkmjQD8b%252bRybjUOcZx%252bbtUeOK%252boD%252bWOteFwHaqlYgAzUrm8WMLMdw9l4vZRVeLc0jOqrhVN1UXyICTOMcvHDJhyoW%252b1C2Q%253d%253d

Local Authority Recycling Centres and Bring Banks

It is not known how many textile banks are present at each location. Providers of banks often place several at a single location. Additionally, it is common for third parties not contracted by Local Authorities to place textile banks at publicly accessible bring banks outside of CAS. It is not unusual to find numerous textile banks from one or more organisations at a single site.

According to data from the NWCPO, approximately 248 tonnes of post-consumer textiles were collected from Local Authority CAS in 2023. This figure is a significant underestimate, representing only textile collections reported as waste from 18 CAS in six Local Authority areas (Cork County, Donegal, Mayo, Offaly, Waterford and Wexford) in 2023. This represents only around 20% of CAS and doesn't include bring banks. A large proportion of textiles collected from CAS and bring banks in 2023 were not reported as waste. While these post-consumer textiles are captured and quantified elsewhere in the study, a lack of data on collections from Local Authority facilities makes it difficult to quantify the important role that Local Authorities have played in facilitating the separate collection of post-consumer textiles.

In April 2026, MyWaste.ie launched its Textiles Recycling Map showing the locations of post-consumed textile collection points nationwide, which includes Local Authority textile banks at CAS and bring banks.[74]

The Challenge of Bulky Household Textiles

Compared with clothing, post-consumer household textiles represent a more challenging stream for the sector. Charities and textile sorters generally accept unfilled items such as bed linen, blankets and towels. However, filled/padded items, such as quilts, duvets, pillows and sleeping bags, as well as carpets and rugs, are generally not accepted. It is noted that duvets, quilts and pillows, which correspond to CN code 940440, 'Quilts, bedspreads, eiderdowns and duvets (comforters)', are outside the scope of textiles EPR, as defined by Annex IVc of the Waste Framework Directive. These items are problematic for hygiene reasons, due to their bulkiness (taking up lots of space in textile banks, for example), and as they have little to no end market value for reuse or recycling. Vets and animal shelters sometimes accept these items but it is reported that they are less willing to do so in recent years. The advice provided to the public on MyWaste.ie is that used pillows and duvets

[74] https://textilesmap.mywaste.ie/

The Challenge of Bulky Household Textiles

should be disposed of in the residual waste bin. The EU-funded BIO-CIRC research project investigated the fate of waste duvets and pillows in the UK and France and proposed supply chains for sorting and redistribution of these items for recycling to produce polyester-based insulation (UK and France) and reclaimed down feathers for resale (France).[75] The feasibility of these approaches in Ireland is unknown.

3.2.2 Charity Retail

The charity retail sector refers to registered charities with retail premises (charity shops) in Ireland. These charities accept donations of post-consumer textiles from the public and organisations, a proportion of which they resell in their shops to generate funds to support their core activities.

To quantify this stream, data were obtained from Charity Retail Ireland (CRI), individual charities and specialist textile sorters that purchase post-consumer textiles from charities.[76] Based on the data obtained, it is estimated that the charity retail sector in Ireland collected approximately **29,191 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles in 2023.

This figure is greater than that of the previous NATEX study, which estimated that charities received 17,500 tonnes of post-consumer textiles in 2019, representing 10% of all post-consumer textiles in that year. The findings of the present study indicate that the charity retail sector plays a more significant role in the management of post-consumer textiles in Ireland, processing around 18% of post-consumer textiles in 2023.

Estimates for the charity retail sector are subject to a high degree of uncertainty, reflecting the limited resources and infrastructure available within the sector to accurately quantify textile donations and reuse. Engagement with stakeholders in the sector indicates that organisations are using different approaches to estimate quantities depending on the resources and infrastructure available, including direct measurement (weighing using scales) and estimation using secondary data (e.g., records of quantities sold to sorters), or proxy data (e.g., sales quantities) in conjunction with conversion factors. While these approaches

[75] Nomadéis Le Havre, the Alliance for Sustainable Building Products, Eden Renewable Innovations Limited & Back To Earth Limited (2022) *BIO-CIRC Project – Bio(and) Circular Insulation for Resourceful Construction: Activity T1.1 – Assessment and structuring of the waste bedding management sector – Summary report*. [Project supported by European Regional Development Fund]. Available at https://asbp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/BIO-CIRC_T1.1.2_EN_Assessment-of-waste-bedding-management-sector_Final.pdf

[76] CRI is a representative body for charity shops operating in the charity retail sector. It is estimated that there are approximately 700 charity shops in Ireland, of which about 83% are members of CRI.

are appropriate given existing resource constraints, they can result in variation in reported figures. As a result, the available data may not fully capture the extent of the sector's activities.

In 2023, donations of post-consumer textiles to the charity sector came from a variety of sources, as summarised in **Figure 3.3**. The largest source was direct donations, including 'over-the-door' donations from the public, community collection drives and kerbside charity bag collections (26,040 tonnes, 89%). The next biggest source was textile banks operated by charities (2,913 tonnes, 10%). Additionally, a small proportion of donations came from partnerships with fashion retailers operating in-store collection schemes (239 tonnes, 1%). Further information on retailer collections is provided in **Section 3.2.5**.

While outside the scope of this study, which focuses on 2023, it is noteworthy that since 2025 the charity Oxfam has developed an additional donation channel through its PostBack initiative in partnership with An Post, as outlined below.

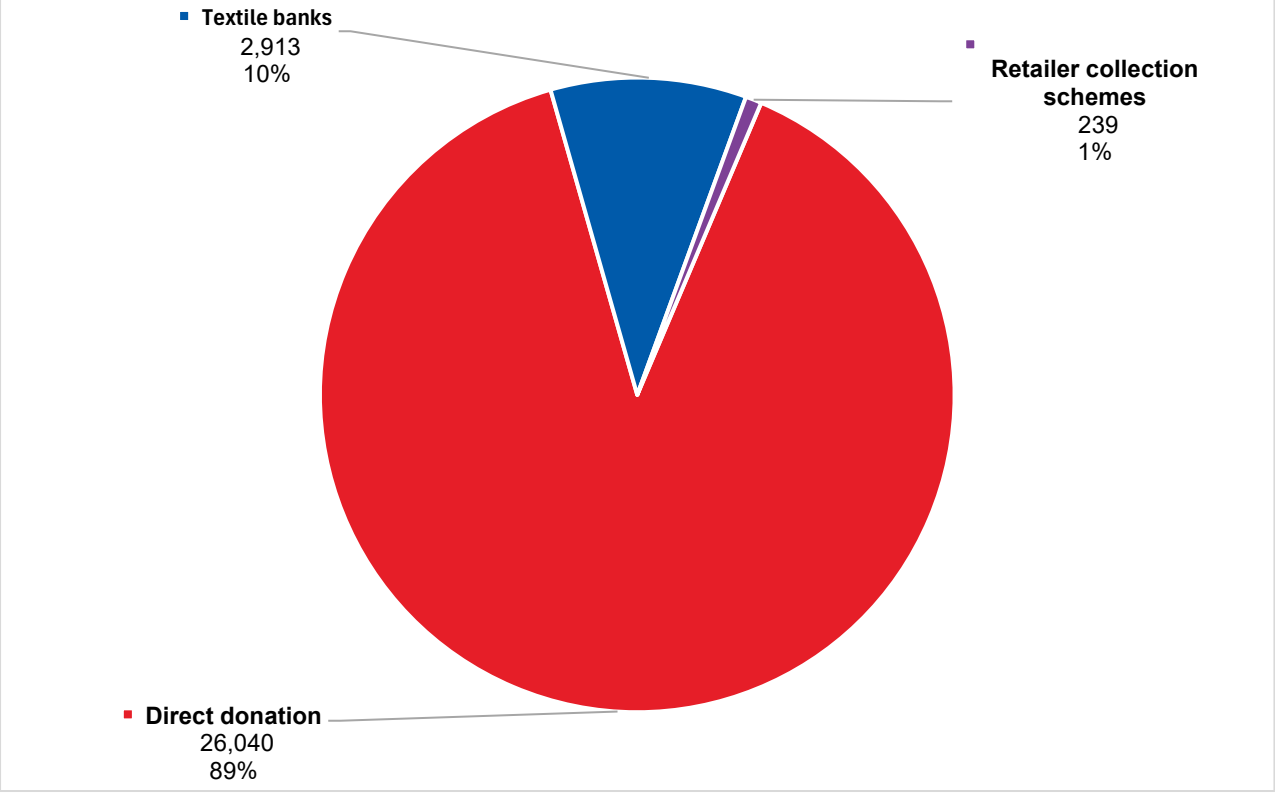

Figure 3.3: Donations of post-consumer textiles to charity retail sector by source in 2023

Oxfam PostBack

The PostBack initiative, launched by Oxfam Ireland in April 2025 in partnership with An Post, is a nationwide programme designed to further the collection of post-consumer textiles by removing barriers to donation.

The scheme allows households in Ireland to order a donation bag to be delivered to their home, fill it with unwanted clothing (as well as books and bric-a-brac), and return it to Oxfam free of charge via collection or by dropping it off at a post office. The initiative leverages An Post's nationwide delivery network through a reverse-logistics model, providing further access to donation. The postal donation model also protects the quality of donated goods by preventing exposure to the elements, thereby preserving resale value.

In 2025, over 33,000 PostBack bags were dispatched, significantly surpassing Oxfam's initial target of 5,000. Approximately 47% were returned by year-end (approximately 14,300 bags), containing an estimated 82 tonnes of donated textiles. By late 2025, Oxfam were fulfilling and processing approximately 100 bag orders per day, which showed public engagement with the initiative. Oxfam was awarded €48,000 in February 2026 under the Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme to further develop and scale the PostBack initiative.

Charities engaged in the resale of post-consumer textiles in Ireland range from small local charities with one or several shops to national arms of global charities with shops located across Ireland and Northern Ireland. Systems and capacity for the collection and handling of donations, therefore, vary between organisations.

Charities generally carry out an initial sort at the shop level, separating out textiles deemed suitable for resale in their shops. This practice is generally referred to in the sector as 'creaming' – i.e., skimming the 'cream' from incoming donations.[77] Out of season items suitable for resale (winter or summer wear) are held in reserve for the next season.

Depending on the charity, surplus items deemed potentially suitable for resale may be sent to other shops or centralised hubs for further sorting and redistribution. This stock sharing or 'cascading' is used to match stock to local markets, as supply and demand vary from shop-to-shop.

[77] In the sector, 'cream' (sometimes 'crème') is typically used to refer to good-quality high-street clothing, which may still have tags/labels attached.

SVP Infrastructure for Collection and Sorting of Post-consumer Textiles

St. Vincent de Paul Society Ireland (SVP) is a charity that provides assistance to individuals experiencing poverty and disadvantage. Its work is supported by income from its nationwide network of over 220 Vincent's charity shops, which sell second-hand clothing, books, music, bric-a-brac, homeware and, in some locations, furniture.

SVP estimates that it receives approximately 17,500 tonnes of donated post-consumer textiles each year in Ireland. The majority (90-95%) are obtained through direct, over-the-door donations to charity shops, including contributions from corporate and community collection drives. The remainder is collected through textile banks. SVP has been reducing its reliance on textile banks in recent years, from around 600 banks in 2023 to fewer than 200 in 2025, due to higher-quality donations being received directly through shops and capacity considerations.

Donations are first sorted at shop level, where an average of 30% (the cream) is resold on-site. Higher rates of *in situ* resale may be achieved in certain areas and where there is an experienced and proactive shop manager. The surplus is typically sent to one of eight SVP Order Fulfilment Centres (OFCs) nationwide, where volunteers and paid staff carry out more detailed sorting. Categories include items deemed not suitable for resale in shops and several resale streams, including high-value/vintage, out-of-season and rotation stock. Textiles are sorted into colour-coded, barcoded bags for convenience and traceability. Processes can vary somewhat between regions and shops – for example, some shops bypass OFCs and send their surplus directly to sorters.

Items deemed suitable for resale are redistributed to Vincent's shops. After one or two rounds of redistribution, it is estimated that a further 30% of donations are resold in shops. The remaining 40%, which is deemed unsuitable for resale or failed to sell in shops, is sold to specialist textile sorters in Northern Ireland. SVP's relatively high rate of resale – around 60% overall – demonstrates the value of using a centralised system of redistribution of textiles across the charity shop network.

SVP quantifies inbound and outbound textiles using several data sources, including direct weighing in OFCs, sales data from the electronic point-of-sale (EPOS) system used in approximately 70% of shops, and records of quantities sold to textile sorters.

Textiles deemed unsuitable for resale and which fail to sell in charity shops are sold or given to specialist textile sorters. These include low quality, damaged or stained items, pyjamas and intimate wear. Some charities separate out small proportions of waste textiles (e.g.,

soiled items) that they dispose of themselves, while others send everything deemed unsuitable for resale in charity shops to sorters.

In alignment with the previous NATEX study, the present study found that there is a roughly 50/50 split between donated textiles being resold in charity shops and those sent onwards to specialist sorters. It is anecdotally reported that the share that charities give to sorters is increasing in recent years as quantities of low quality, fast fashion garments in donations increase.

Table 3.4 provides a breakdown of the fates of post-consumer textiles donated to the charity retail sector in 2023.

Table 3.4: Fates of post-consumer textiles donated to charity retail sector in 2023

	Resale in charity shops (reuse in Ireland)[78]	Sold to specialist textile sorters (various fates)	Discarded as waste by charities (incineration/landfill)	Total
Quantity (tonnes)	14,594	14,594	3	**29,191**
% of total	50%	50%	<1%	

3.2.3 Specialist Textile Sorters

'Specialist textile sorters' is used in this study to refer to a range of organisations that specialise in the collection and sorting of post-consumer textiles. While sometimes referred to as 'textile recyclers', these organisations are primarily involved in the collection and sorting of post-consumer textiles for export to international markets, rather than in recycling activities themselves.

The organisations in question vary in terms of their scale, operating models and markets. Of the four largest operators, two are based in Northern Ireland and two in Dublin City. There are numerous smaller organisations and individuals operating in this area at local and regional levels throughout the island. This category also includes specialist enterprises that partner with retailers to manage their in-store collection schemes.

Data on the quantities of post-consumer textiles collected and redistributed by specialist textile sorters was obtained from a combination of sources, including information shared

[78] Includes textiles held in reserve for resale in following season.

directly by the organisations themselves and their partners in the retail and charity sectors, as well as reporting to the NWCPO and NTFSO, and customs data on exports of used clothing.[79]

In 2023, it is estimated that specialist textile sorters processed **32,258 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles collected in Ireland.[80] Over half of these textiles were obtained directly from the public (e.g., via textile banks and community collection drives). Just under half were sourced from the charity retail sector, having been sorted and deemed unsuitable for resale or failing to sell in charity shops. A relatively small proportion were obtained from retailer collection schemes. **Table 3.5** provides an overall breakdown of sources. It should be noted that sources vary between sorters – for example, some sorters primarily purchase from charities while others rely on their own network of textile banks.

Table 3.5: Post-consumer textiles collected by specialist textile sorters in 2023

	Consumers (including commercial textile banks and community collections)	Charities	Retailer collection schemes	Total
Quantity (tonnes)	17,588	14,594	75	**32,258**
% of total	55%	45%	<1%	

The degree of sorting undertaken by these organisations is highly variable. Some operators undertake relatively little sorting prior to onward redistribution of unbaled textiles. However, generally the larger operators sort incoming textiles into specific grades, ranging from around 100-200 grades, depending on the sorter and based on markets. Highest value grades include vintage clothing and cream. Other grades refer to specific categories of clothing, including, for example, babygrows, ‘children’s mixed rummage’, ladies fashion tops, men’s mixed shirts, neck ties and socks, among many others.

Sorting is a labour-intensive activity that is carried out manually by skilled workers on lines with conveyors, chutes and receptacles. Digital sorting technologies are not currently used

[79] Recorded as CN code 63090000, ‘Worn clothing and other worn articles’, used in customs declarations for second-hand textile products.

[80] Estimates based on data provided by specialist textile sorters, the NWCPO, NTFSO, customs data and retailers operating textile collection schemes.

by sorters operating on the island.[81] Sorted textiles are generally compacted into bales wrapped in polypropylene sheets and straps. Smaller (45kg or 55kg) bales are generally exported for reuse with larger bales (~360kg) being used for textiles sent for recycling.

Figure 3.4: Irish post-consumer textiles – sorted, baled and ready for export for reuse

Table 3.6 provides an overview of the fates of post-consumer textiles collected by specialist sorters in 2023. The vast majority (80%) were exported for reuse – further information on export markets is provided below. A very small proportion (1%) was reused in Ireland (e.g., through second-hand retail).

Approximately 15% of textiles collected by sorters were sent for recycling. It would appear that this is entirely accounted for by open-loop recycling for lower value applications. This study found no evidence of post-consumer textiles collected in Ireland being directed to fibre-to-fibre recycling, which is at a relatively nascent stage, although this cannot be ruled

[81] Digital textile sorting systems use technologies such as near-infrared, visual spectroscopy and AI to rapidly sort large volumes of post-consumer textiles. These systems facilitate sorting into pure material streams as feedstocks for recycling. This supports fibre-to-fibre (closed-loop) recycling, which requires pure feedstocks in terms of colour and fibre composition.

out.[82] A small proportion of open-loop recycling takes place in Ireland, whereby textiles, particularly terrycloth/towelling, are cut into rags for industrial cleaning (e.g., in garages).[83] Mostly, textiles for recycling are exported (including to the UK and Asia) where they are shredded into fibres for use in thermal or acoustic insulation, padding and carpet underlay. A number of stakeholders engaged as part of this study expressed an interest in investing in recycling infrastructure but noted that they are unable to do so presently due to cost constraints.

A small proportion of textiles collected by sorters (3%) were deemed to be unsuitable for reuse or recycling (e.g., due to being wet or soiled) and were collected by authorised waste companies for management as waste.

Table 3.6: Fates of post-consumer textiles collected by specialist sorters in 2023

	Reused In Ireland	Exported for reuse	Recycled (in Ireland and overseas)	Discarded as waste (i.e., incineration or landfill)	Total
Quantity (tonnes)	370	25,954	4,825	1,109	**32,258**
% of total	1%	80%	15%	3%	

Cookstown Textile Recyclers (CTR)
Cookstown Textile Recyclers (CTR), established in 1992 in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, is the largest textile sorting operation on the island of Ireland, processing roughly half of all post-consumer textiles handled by sorters. CTR is a part of the Textile Recycling International (TRI) Group, which also includes textile sorting and resale enterprises in Scotland and England. The organisation receives post-consumer textiles from across Ireland and the UK. Textiles from Ireland are sourced through multiple channels, including charity partners (approximately 80% of incoming post-consumer textiles), an extensive network of

[82] Textile Exchange (2024) *Materials Market Report*. Revised January 2025. Available at https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2024/09/Materials-Market-Report-2024.pdf.

[83] Additionally, Cirtex in Co. Longford produces a range of products from recycled mattresses and textiles through mechanical recycling. The PUreTex research project being undertaken by Dublin City University and the Rediscovery Centre is investigating the potential production of building insulation from waste polyester textiles using chemical recycling.

Cookstown Textile Recyclers (CTR)

textile banks provided on behalf of Local Authorities (approximately 20%) and, to a lesser extent, community collection drives (<1%).

CTR operates a large sorting facility in Randalstown, Co. Antrim, employing over 250 people. According to CTR, when textiles arrive at the facility, they are first weighed on a weighbridge before being unloaded and manually sorted into approximately 230 specific grades based on market demand. Items for which there are not reuse markets – such as low-quality items and winter wear – are diverted for recycling. Once sorted and quality checked, textiles are baled for export: smaller bales are used for reusable items and larger bales for recyclables. Each bale is labelled with a QR code to ensure traceability of shipments.

According to CTR, of all textiles processed by CTR, roughly 70% are sold for reuse to partners in Ireland, the UK, Europe, Asia and Africa. A further 27-30% are sent for recycling in the UK and Asia. Less than 3% of incoming textiles are unsuitable for either reuse or recycling and therefore diverted to incineration with energy recovery via authorised waste collectors, with nothing going to landfill.

Figure 3.5, overleaf, provides a high-level breakdown of export destinations of Irish post-consumer textiles collected by sorters in Ireland and Northern Ireland and exported for reuse or recycling in 2023.[84]

Sorted post-consumer textiles are predominantly exported to countries in Africa, particularly West Africa. Key destinations include Benin, Morocco, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Angola, Sierra Leone, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

Eastern Europe is the next most important export destination. Destinations include Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary and Ukraine. Eastern Europe is an end market for sorted post-consumer textiles, particularly winter wear. Further sorting also takes place in Eastern European countries, particularly Poland, before onward export to other end markets.

There are also export markets for further sorting, reuse and recycling in Asian countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Pakistan, the Philippines, Türkiye and Jordan. The UAE and Pakistan are important hubs for sorting of post-consumer textiles. Stakeholders noted that when sorters receive more textiles than they can process, the

[84] This reflects primary export destinations upon leaving the island and does not include secondary movements to end markets, where these occur, or movements between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

surplus unsorted textiles may be exported to partner facilities in other countries, such as the UAE, for sorting.

This breakdown of export destinations differs somewhat to the overall EU profile. In 2023, of exports of used textiles from the EU-27 and UK, 45% were sent to Africa, 43% to Asia, 10% to non-EU countries in Europe, and 2% to other destinations. [85, 86] These figures indicate that Ireland sends a relatively greater proportion of its post-consumer textiles to Africa, and relatively less to Asia, than the EU and UK overall.

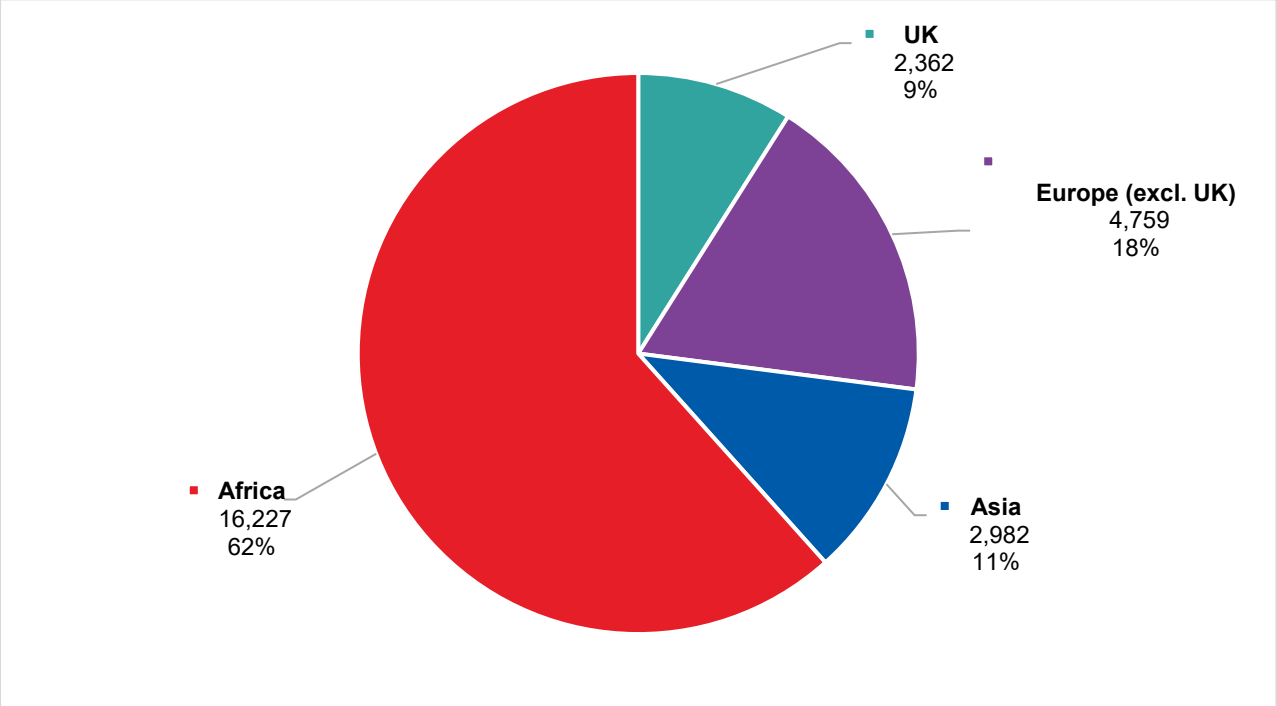

Figure 3.5: Export destinations of Irish post-consumer textiles for reuse or recycling (2023)

Specialist textile sorters operating in Ireland and Northern Ireland highlighted a range of challenges currently facing the sector, including:

- **Costs**: Costs remain high relative to profits. Labour is the greatest cost for the sector, with additional costs associated with transport (road and freight), energy and investment in equipment and infrastructure.

[85] EEA (2025) *Measuring Europe's textiles circularity – through the lenses of the EEA Circularity Metrics Lab*. ETC CE Report 2025/7. Available at https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-report-2025-7-measuring-europe2019s-textiles-circularity-2013-through-the-lenses-of-the-eea-circularity-metrics-lab.

[86] These figures do not include intra-EU exports.

- **Staffing difficulties**: Sorters report ongoing challenges in finding and retaining workers with the specialist skills required for sorting, which limits the sector's ability to scale.
- **Impact of fast fashion**: Profits in the sector are primarily generated through export for reuse, while stakeholders report that sending textiles for recycling can be loss-making. Items sent for recycling are typically those without a market for reuse – most often low-quality garments and winter wear, for which there is less demand in warmer countries. The growth of fast fashion is increasing the proportion of low-quality textiles entering the post-consumer stream, resulting in a higher share of materials being diverted to recycling. This narrows profit margins and undermines the economic viability of manual sorting.
- **Volatility in export markets**: Sorters operate within an unpredictable global market, influenced by geopolitical crises, currency fluctuations, disruptions to trade routes, and restrictions on cross-border shipments. It is reported that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has affected export markets for reuse, particularly of winter wear.[87, 88] Several countries have introduced bans or restrictions on imports of post-consumer textiles to protect domestic industries, safeguard public health and the environment.[89, 90] For these reasons, the post-consumer textiles value chain is highly exposed to global market volatility.

Liberty Recycling

Liberty Recycling is a Dublin-based textile sorting and resale enterprise. It integrates its sorting activities with a social enterprise and charity retail model that supports the employment, training and rehabilitation of individuals recovering from addiction. The organisation employs over 130 people.

All textiles processed by Liberty Recycling are sourced through its network of textile banks. These include banks provided on behalf of Local Authorities, commercial partners such as

[87] EuRIC Textiles & Municipal Waste Europe (2024) *Joint Statement: Crisis in Europe's textiles sorting and recycling sector could trigger a domino effect*. Available at https://euric.org/resource-hub/press-releases-statements/crisis-in-europes-textiles-sorting-and-recycling-sector-could-trigger-a-domino-effect.

[88] Recycling International (2022) *Textiles outlook: Ukraine war hits quality market*. Available at https://recyclinginternational.com/markets/textiles-recycling-markets/textiles-outlook-ukraine-war-hits-quality-market/48832/.

[89] Reuters (2023) *Uganda bans imports of used clothing from 'dead' people*. Available at https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/uganda-bans-imports-used-clothing-dead-people-2023-08-25/.

[90] United States Law Library of Congress (2024) *Textile Waste Bans in Selected Countries*. Available at https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/ll/llglrd/2024555214/2024555214.pdf.

Liberty Recycling

Tesco, and apartment building management companies. Textiles are collected by Liberty using its own fleet of vehicles and transported to its facility in Bluebell in Dublin.

Upon arrival, textiles are weighed on a weighbridge before entering the sorting process. Sorting is carried out manually by employees, who grade items according to specific categories (approximately 130) based on markets. Approximately the top 9% of items (the cream) are retained for resale through Liberty's network of nine charity shops nationwide, the proceeds of which support its activities. A small proportion (<1%), primarily comprised of towels, are cut into rags on-site and sold for industrial cleaning purposes locally. The remaining textiles are sold for reuse or recycling to partners in African and Asian markets.

Liberty's Bluebell facility is equipped with infrastructure including a warehouse for storage, sorting lines with conveyors, receptacles and chutes, compactors for baling sorted textiles, a fleet of collection vehicles and spare textile banks.

3.2.4 Digital Marketplaces

Direct reuse of post-consumer textiles via digital marketplaces is increasingly popular in Ireland. These include apps and platforms such as Depop, Vinted, Vestiaire Collective, Etsy, eBay, Adverts and Facebook Marketplace, which enable individuals to sell clothing, shoes and accessories directly to other users. Sellers are responsible for transporting items to buyers via in-person exchange or post. According to the findings of a CSO survey carried out in 2021, approximately a third of households were using resale platforms to purchase second-hand clothing at that time.[91, 92]

Users of digital marketplaces include members of the public 'selling their wardrobes' as well as 'professional sellers' that purchase second-hand and vintage stock with the intention of reselling. Since 2023, professional sellers have faced stricter controls due to new EU reporting requirements for digital marketplaces on high-volume sellers.[93]

It was reported by stakeholders engaged that some Irish charities have in the past used platforms such as eBay and Thriftify to sell higher value items, however this was ultimately

[91] CSO (2021) *Household Environmental Behaviours – Waste and Recycling – 2021 Q3*. Available at https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/hebwr/householdenvironmentalbehaviours-wasteandrecyclingquarter32021/.

[92] This question was not repeated in more recent rounds of the survey.

[93] Revenue (n.d.) *DAC7/MRDP*. Available at https://www.revenue.ie/en/companies-and-charities/international-tax/aeoi/dac7/index.aspx.

deemed uneconomical due to the time involved in listing items compared with relatively small returns.

Based on data provided by An Post regarding parcels posted in 2025, it has been estimated that **1,254 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles from Irish consumers were reused via digital marketplaces in that year.[94] Approximately 74% of these were reused domestically, with the remainder being sent to buyers overseas. This figure is higher than that estimated in the previous NATEX study (**700 tonnes**).

The estimate presented in the present study is considered to represent a conservative estimate, with the actual scale of reuse via this stream expected to be higher. In the EPA Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours national survey, 9% of people in 2024 reported selling their unwanted clothing online, which would suggest a higher rate of reuse via this stream.[95]

Table 3.7: Fates of post-consumer textiles reused via digital marketplaces in 2025

	Reuse in Ireland	Export for reuse	Total
Quantity (tonnes)	933	321	**1,254**
Proportion of total (%)	74%	26%	

3.2.5 Retailer Collection Schemes

It is increasingly common for major fashion retailers to have in-store collection schemes for post-consumer textiles. This is the case of a number of retailers in Ireland, including H&M, Penney's, TK Maxx, Zara and Schuh. These are typically in the form of clearly identified receptacles on shop floors, where members of the public may drop off unwanted clothing, footwear and accessories. These may feature signage listing the types of items accepted – bedding is generally not accepted. Some retailers offer discounts or store credit in exchange for the donation.

Textiles collected in this way are stored in small quantities in shops pending collection. Retailers often use a system of back-haulage whereby trucks delivering new stock to stores collect the post-consumer textiles and transport them to a redistribution centre. Retailers themselves are generally not involved in the sorting or management of the post-consumer

[94] Better quality data were available for 2025 than the baseline year, 2023, so these have been used to provide a more representative picture of the scale of reuse of post-consumer textiles via this stream in recent years.

[95] EPA (2024) *Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours – 2nd National Survey*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/textiles-national-attitudes--behaviours-surveys/textiles-second-national-attitudes-and-behaviours-survey/.

textiles. Instead, they have partnerships with third parties – charities or specialist textile sorters – to whom they hand over the textiles for sorting and onward redistribution. Some retailers partner with international organisations that specialise in these types of take-back schemes.

Using data obtained from retailers and their charity partners, it is estimated that at least **314 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles were collected by fashion retailers in Ireland in 2023. This is an underestimate as, at the time of publication, two of the major retailers operating collection schemes that were contacted had not provided data. The majority of textile collected (76%) were donated to charities. A relatively small share (24%) was sent to commercial sorters.

Table 3.8: Fates of post-consumer textiles collected by fashion retailers in 2023 (tonnes)

	Donated/given to…		Total
	Charity	Commercial textile sorter	
Quantity (tonnes)	239	75	**314**
Proportion of total (%)	76%	24%	

3.2.6 Clothes Swap Events

'Clothes swaps' refers to events at which members of the public exchange items of clothing – and sometimes other products, such as footwear, handbags and jewellery. These include informal swaps between friends, family and colleagues; publicly advertised events organised by community groups, non-profit organisations and Local Authorities; and more formalised, permanent 'swap shops'.

Key organisations in this space in Ireland include Change Clothes and Cork Clothes Swap.[96, 97] Some Local Authorities provide resources to support the organisation of clothes

[96] https://www.changeclothes.org/

[97] https://www.corkclothesswap.com/

swap events, such as kits with rails, hangers and signage; guidelines and risk assessments.[98, 99, 100]

Change Clothes

Change Clothes CLG is a registered charity and community-based clothing reuse hub in the Liberties in Dublin City, delivering clothing reuse initiatives nationwide, with a focus on accessibility and skills development. Its activities include a permanent Swap Shop, pop-up clothes swap events, a Scrap Store facilitating creative reuse, educational programmes, and a studio producing small batches of upcycled products from end-of-life textiles. Change Clothes prioritises keeping textiles in use locally for as long as possible, with offcuts and surplus materials graded and redirected into reuse streams rather than disposal.

Through its permanent Swap Shop, in 2025, Change Clothes facilitated 9,858 clothing swaps, engaging 2,465 participants and reusing an estimated 4.93 tonnes of textiles. Pop-up swap events and retail initiatives such as Mystery Packs, Fill-a-Bag events and the Scrap Store collectively supported local reuse, with the Scrap Store diverting an estimated 0.5 tonnes of textiles from disposal in its first four months of operation. Redistribution activities through the Community Closet provided free access to clothing for people experiencing hardship, with 2,445 items redistributed in partnership with eight charities. In the same year, Change Clothes also delivered 213 workshops and engaged over 1,700 participants in education and skills development programmes.

Based on data obtained from organisations involved in clothes swap events, it is estimated that approximately **5 tonnes** of post-consumer textiles were reused in Ireland through this stream in 2023.

This estimate does not include informal swapping and gifting of textiles (e.g., through family and friends) and, therefore, represents an underestimate. Research from Flanders indicates that informal sharing among family and friends represents the most significant source of used textiles obtained by individuals, representing 29% and 66% of used textiles bought and

[98] Waterford County Council (2025) *How to … run a Swap Shop event*. https://waterfordcouncil.ie/app/uploads/2025/08/CAW25-How-To-Swap-Shop.pdf.

[99] Dublin City Council (n.d.) *Clothes Swap*. Available at: https://www.dublincity.ie/environment-and-climate-action/acting-against-climate-change/environmental-awareness/clothes-swap.

[100] Fingal County Council (n.d.) *Borrow a Clothes Swap Kit for your community event!* Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/borrow-clothes-swap-kit-your-community-event.

received, respectively, through a range of channels.[101] The results of the EPA Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours national survey indicate quite high rates of informal swapping and sharing among Irish consumers. According to the survey, 35% of Irish people report regularly passing on clothes to family and friends, and this increases among younger cohorts (63% among 16-24 year olds).[102]

Figure 3.6: Clothes swap event in an office

3.2.7 Commercial Second-hand and Vintage Retail

There is a niche but active market in Ireland for the resale of second-hand designer textiles, particularly handbags and accessories. Several retailers operate models whereby they purchase luxury, designer textile products directly from Irish consumers, which they resell in stores or online. These include small local enterprises like Siopaella, the Designer Exchange and TBD in Dublin, Naphisa Designer Resale in Cork, and No 8 in Galway. This represents a

[101] Delanoeijie & Bachus (2022) Measuring circular reuse magnitude and replacement rate: A new method, *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 184, 106414. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2022.106414.

[102] EPA (2024) *Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours – 2nd National Survey*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/textiles-national-attitudes--behaviours-surveys/textiles-second-national-attitudes-and-behaviours-survey/.

very small proportion of post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland each year and sits at the higher value end of the market.

In the case of vintage retail, stakeholder engagement indicates that the vast majority of vintage textiles sold in Ireland are imported rather than being sourced from Irish consumers. Retailers typically purchase stock from overseas through wholesalers or direct procurement from suppliers. The vintage sector is evolving as demand for these items increases and consumer shopping habits shift. It is reported that the sector is becoming more diverse and fragmented, with increasing numbers of small enterprises selling at flea markets and online – in addition to the traditional brick-and-mortar model. Some charity retailers are also purchasing small volumes of vintage items to bolster sales and attract shoppers.

Vintage stock sold in Ireland originates from a range of international sources, predominantly Italy – sourced from Italian post-consumer textiles and deadstock. Vintage clothing is also sourced from the UK, the Netherlands and Germany, which in turn import post-consumer textiles from North America, typically routed through sorting facilities in India and Pakistan. This international trade in vintage stock illustrates the highly globalised nature of the post-consumer textiles value chain.

3.3 Overview – the Irish Textiles Value Chain in Numbers

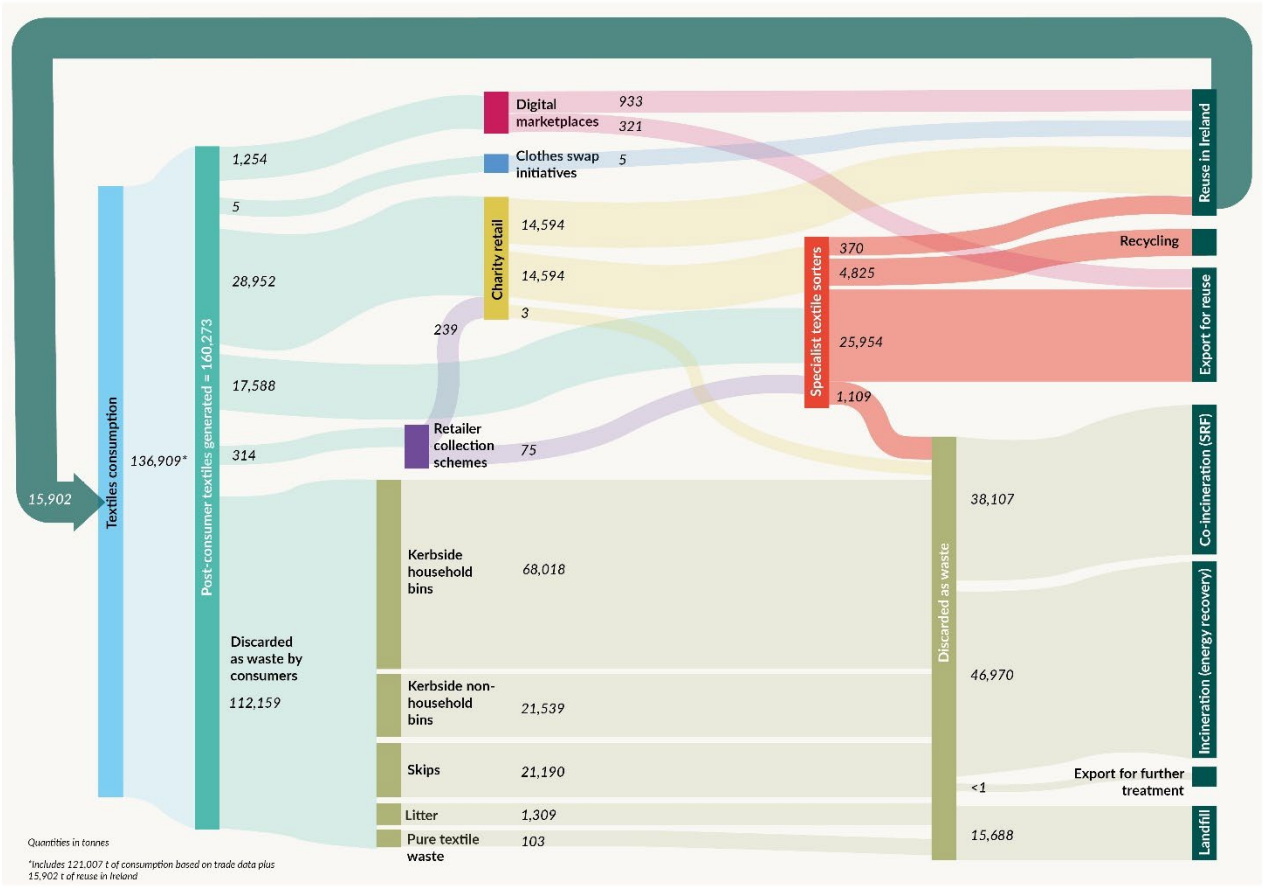

Figure 3.7: Overview – textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles flows and fates in Ireland in 2023[103]

Figure 3.7 provides a graphical overview of textiles consumption and the flows and fates of post-consumer textiles in Ireland in 2023.

In 2023, the Irish public consumed an estimated **121,007 tonnes** of textile products (including imports of new and used textile products, and domestic production), or approximately **24 kg/person**, which is higher than the EU average of 19 kg per person. When factoring in reuse in Ireland through consumer-to-consumer resale on digital

[103] As is evident from the differently sized flows in the diagram, estimated quantities do not always align exactly across textile streams. For example, estimated textiles consumption (121,007 tonnes) is not equal to estimated post-consumer textile generation (160,273 tonnes). This reflects a range of factors relating to the nature of the study and the textiles value chain. The study relies on quantitative data gathered from a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders and datasets, with different sources using different methods to quantify textiles at different stages of the value chain. There are also specific challenges associated with particular textile streams and datasets. A detailed discussion is provided in **Section 2.4**.

marketplaces, clothes swaps, charity and second-hand retail; consumption increases to **136,909 tonnes** or **27 kg/person**.

Generation of post-consumer textiles in 2023 is estimated to be **160,273 tonnes**, or approximately **31 kg/ person**.[104] This is greater than the EU average for 2022 of 16 kg/person.[105]

Figure 3.8 provides a breakdown of the various post-consumer textile flows in 2023 in tonnes. These represent the different pathways or options used by consumers to manage their unwanted textiles.

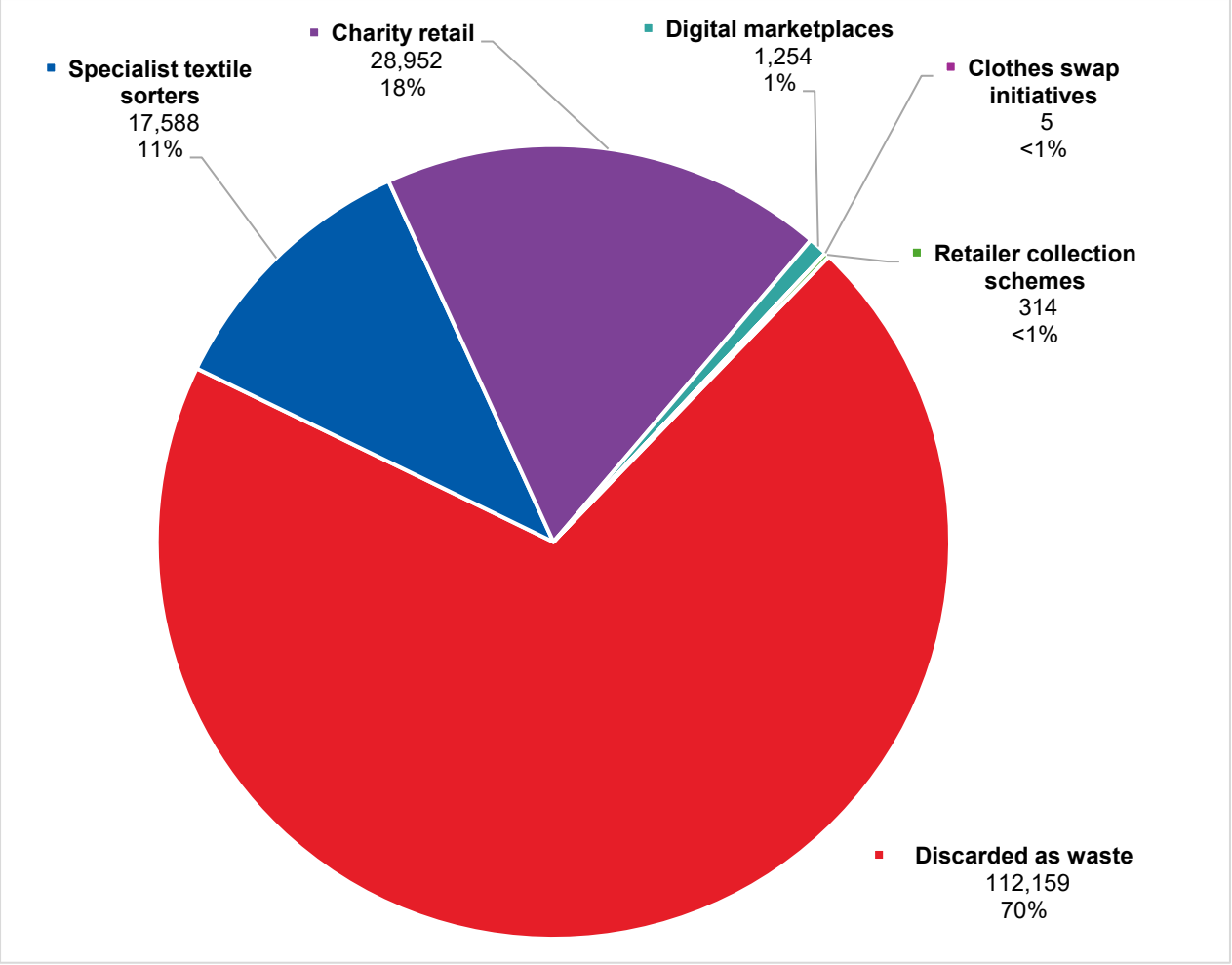

Figure 3.8 Initial post-consumer textile flows by tonnage and percentage (2023)

[104] The variation in this figure is due to the discrepancy in the estimated quantities of textile waste generation and textile waste managed, which are informed by different data sources.

[105] European Environmental Agency (2025) *Textile waste generation per person in the EU per year*. Available at https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/circularity/sectoral-modules/textiles/textile-waste-generation-per-person-in-the-eu-per-year.

Around two-thirds (70%) of post-consumer textiles generated in 2023 (112,159 tonnes) were discarded as waste in the first instance, primarily as mixed, municipal solid waste in household and non-household bins for kerbside collection. The remaining third (30%) of post-consumer textiles (48,113 tonnes) were separately collected and directed to more circular streams, including charity retailers, specialist sorters and retailer collection schemes.

These relative proportions align with those identified in the previous NATEX study, which found that in 2019, 65% of post-consumer textiles were discarded as waste, with the remaining 35% being directed to separate collection streams.[106] This indicates a consistent trend in recent years of approximately two-thirds of post-consumer textiles in Ireland being directed to the waste stream in the first instance.

These findings do not align with behaviours as reported by consumers in the EPA Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours national survey, where consumers reported most often managing their unwanted textiles through donation to charity shops (40% of respondents), followed by textile banks (23%), giving to family or friends (14%), placing in household bins (11%) and selling (2%).[107] The discrepancy in the findings of this study for the share of post-consumer textiles discarded as waste (70%) and the reported rate of use of this pathway by consumers themselves in the EPA survey (11%) is particularly noteworthy. This may indicate an attitude-behaviour gap in how Irish consumers manage their unwanted textile products and/or uneven distribution of textile disposal behaviours across households, whereby a relatively small proportion of households discard disproportionately large quantities of textiles.

The majority of post-consumer textiles discarded as waste in 2023 were incinerated, either in waste-to-energy facilities in Ireland (47%) or as SRF in cement kilns in Ireland or overseas (38%). Smaller proportions were disposed of in landfills (16%). A very small quantity (<1%, likely comprised of textiles contaminated with hazardous substances) was exported for specialist treatment. **Figure 3.9** summarises the range of fates to which post-consumer textiles were directed in 2023.

[106] While the overall quantity of post-consumer textiles estimated in the previous NATEX study was greater (170,000 tonnes or 35 kg per person), the relative proportions identified as being directed to waste and separate collection streams were similar in this study – 70% and 30%, respectively.

[107] EPA (2024) *Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours – 2nd National Survey*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/textiles-national-attitudes--behaviours-surveys/textiles-second-national-attitudes-and-behaviours-survey/.

The remaining 30% (48,113 tonnes) of post-consumer textiles were directed by consumers to more circular streams, including donation to charity (28,952 tonnes[108], 18% of total), placement in textile banks and donation to community collection drives going directly to sorters (approximately 17,588 tonnes, 11%), drop-off at in-store retailer collection points (314 tonnes, <1%); and direct reuse via digital marketplaces (1,254 tonnes, 1%), clothes swaps (5 tonnes, <1%) and domestic second-hand and vintage retail.

The majority of separately collected post-consumer textiles in 2023 were directed for reuse or recycling in Ireland or overseas. Approximately 11% were reused in Ireland, 18% were exported for reuse, and 3% were sold as feedstock for open-loop recycling, predominantly overseas. This study found no evidence of post-consumer textiles collected in Ireland being directed to closed-loop/fibre-to-fibre recycling, although this cannot be ruled out. A very small proportion of separately collected textiles were deemed unsuitable for reuse or recycling markets. These were discarded as waste by sorters (3.4%) or charities (<1%) and disposed of as described previously.

Compared with the previous NATEX study, 6% of post-consumer textiles were reused in Ireland in 2019, whereas the current estimate is 11%, reflecting higher estimated volumes resold through charity shops and digital marketplaces. In contrast, recycling rates are substantially lower in the present study (3%) than previously estimated (9%). Estimates for export for reuse are broadly consistent, at 21% in 2019 compared with 18% in 2023, indicating that approximately one fifth of Irish post-consumer textiles continue to be exported for reuse.

[108] Excluding donations sourced from retailer collection schemes (239 tonnes)

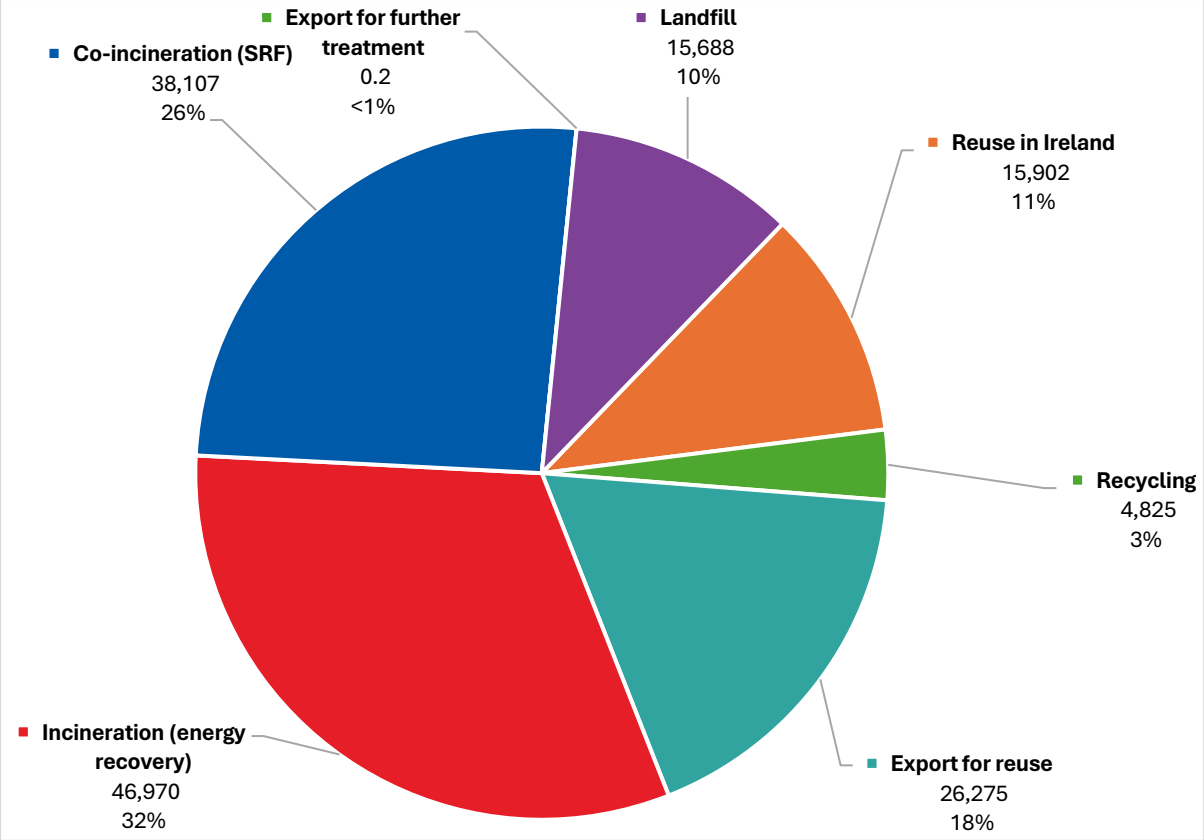

Figure 3.9 Post-consumer textile fates by tonnage and percentage (2023)

The ultimate fate of post-consumer textiles exported from the island for reuse or recycling is beyond the scope of this study. Previous research has highlighted uncertainties regarding the fates of post-consumer textiles exported to third countries.[109, 110]

[109] EEA (2023) *EU exports of used textiles in Europe's circular economy*. ETC/CE Report 2023/4. Available at https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce/products/etc-ce-report-2023-4-eu-exports-of-used-textiles-in-europe2019s-circular-economy.

[110] Circle Economy (2023) *Destinations of Dutch Used Textiles – Uses and Risks after Export*. Available at https://www.circle-economy.com/resources/destinations-of-dutch-used-textiles.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

Drawing on extensive data collection and stakeholder engagement, this study has quantified textile consumption and post-consumer textile generation in Ireland in 2023. It maps out and describes the various flows and fates of post-consumer textiles, providing an evidence-based account of how textile products flow through the Irish economy.

Key Findings

Consumption of textile products in Ireland has increased sharply over the past decade, rising more than threefold from approximately **37,000 tonnes** in 2010 to **121,000 tonnes** in 2023. In recent years, this growth appears to have stabilised at around **24 kg/person**, although this remains higher than the estimated EU average of 19 kg/person. When direct reuse within Ireland is included, total consumption increases to **137,000 tonnes** or **27 kg/person**. This level of consumption generates substantial volumes of post-consumer textiles, estimated at approximately **160,000 tonnes** (**31 kg/person**) in 2023. Findings from this and the previous NATEX study indicate that around **two-thirds of these textiles are discarded as waste** in the first instance – particularly via household bins – and are subsequently incinerated or landfilled.

Overview of the Post-consumer Textiles Value Chain

Ireland has an established post-consumer textiles value chain, comprising an all-island network of actors involved in the collection, transport, sorting, reuse, recycling, recovery, disposal and export of textiles. Depending on the nature of the items and consumer decisions, post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland follow a range of potential pathways leading to different outcomes domestically and internationally. Once exported, however, their ultimate fate is uncertain; addressing this information gap has been identified as an action in the national Textiles Roadmap.

Members of the public have access to a range of potential options to manage their unwanted textiles, including swapping, selling, donating and disposal. However, a lack of information on locally available options, potential fates and associated impacts may make it difficult for individuals to make informed choices. This is reflected in EPA survey findings indicating that 69% of respondents would like better information on how to discard unwanted clothing.[111] MyWaste.ie recently launched a nationwide awareness campaign and an online Textiles

[111] EPA (2024) *Textiles Attitudes & Behaviours – 2nd National Survey*. Available at https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/circular-economy/textiles-national-attitudes--behaviours-surveys/textiles-second-national-attitudes-and-behaviours-survey/.

Recycling Map identifying textile banks and charity shops nationwide, with plans to expand it to include additional options, such as retailer take-back schemes.[112, 113]

Options used by the public in Ireland to manage unwanted textile goods:

- Giving to or swapping with friends or family
- Participating in a clothes swap
- Selling via digital marketplace or second-hand/vintage retailers
- Donating to charity shops in person, via post or through collection drives
- Using retailer in-store collection points
- Depositing items in textile banks at civic amenity sites, bring banks or other locations
- Discarding in residual waste bins, where no better option exists[114]

The study highlights the central role of the charity retail sector and specialist textile sorters in managing separately collected textiles in Ireland. The charity sector processes approximately 29,191 tonnes (60%) of separately collected post-consumer textiles, while textile sorters process approximately 32,258 tonnes (67%).[115]

The charity retail sector is the primary driver of domestic reuse within Ireland's circular textiles economy. In 2023, it facilitated the reuse of at least 14,594 tonnes of post-consumer textiles through retail sale, achieving high reuse rates despite limited resources. In addition to supporting circularity, the sector provides affordable clothing and generates revenue for charitable activities both in Ireland and abroad.

Specialist textile sorters in Ireland and Northern Ireland play a critical role in retaining the value of post-consumer textiles from multiple collection streams. They ensure that materials not reused directly by consumers, charities or social enterprises are sorted and directed to markets for reuse or recycling or, where these options are not feasible, towards appropriate disposal pathways. Given the variability in textile types, quality and composition, the detailed

[112] https://textilesmap.mywaste.ie/

[113] DCEE (2026) *Minister Dillon publishes first National Policy Statement on Textiles and launches a nationwide information campaign on used textiles*. Available at https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/press-releases/minister-dillon-publishes-first-national-policy-statement-on-textiles-and-launches-a-nationwide-information-campaign-on-used-textiles/.

[114] Due to a lack of alternative management options, the public is encouraged to dispose of certain categories of textile products in residual waste bins (e.g., used filled/padded quilts, duvets and pillows, oily rags and contaminated textiles).

[115] These figures are not additive, as there is significant overlap between the two sectors: charities sell or give a substantial proportion of donations unsold or deemed unsuitable for resale (estimated at around half) to textile sorters.

sorting provided by these organisations is required to support a cascading approach that prioritises the most circular and sustainable outcomes.

The findings of this study demonstrate that when post-consumer textiles are collected separately, only a very small proportion is ultimately discarded as 'waste'. This reflects strong commercial incentives within the sector to maximise reuse and recycling, resulting in minimal volumes being sent to incineration or landfill.

Key Challenges for the Sector

The Economics of Commercial Sorting

Textile sorters operate in a challenging economic environment. Manual sorting is labour-intensive and costly, while revenues are largely dependent on export for reuse. An increasing influx of lower-quality textiles, combined with declines in certain export markets, is resulting in a greater proportion of materials being directed to recycling. This shift reduces profit margins and may undermine the economic viability of manual sorting, while also constraining the capacity of operators to scale activities or invest in new technologies (e.g., for sorting or recycling). Additionally, the sector's reliance on international markets exposes it to external pressures, including interruptions to trade and rising fuels costs associated with geopolitical crises.

This study highlights the need for interventions to divert post-consumer textiles away from the municipal waste stream. Under the Circular Economy Strategy, the Government has committed to reducing the proportion of textiles in household waste from 6% to 4% by 2031. Achieving this target will require sustained, evidence-based communications, such as the MyWaste.ie awareness campaign, to improve public awareness of alternative management options.[116]

However, charities and sorters currently have limited capacity to process additional quantities of post-consumer textiles. A substantial increase in lower-quality textiles diverted from the waste stream could be problematic, especially for sorters. This presents a potential structural risk to the sector, as has been noted elsewhere, highlighting the need to ensure that sufficient capacity and supporting infrastructure are in place to accommodate textiles diverted from the waste stream.[117]

[116] https://mywaste.ie/sustainability/clothing-and-textiles/

[117] EURIC (2024) *Crisis in Europe's textile sorting and recycling sector could trigger a domino effect*. Available at https://www.municipalwasteeurope.eu/publications/crisis-in-europes-textiles-sorting-and-recycling-sector-could-trigger-a-domino-

The forthcoming introduction of the textiles EPR scheme in 2028, together with other key policies, including the revised Waste Shipment Regulation, will provide financial support and regulatory oversight of the collection, sorting, management and export of post-consumer textiles in Ireland. These measures will require that separately collected post-consumer textiles are subject to detailed sorting, with reuse prioritised in accordance with waste hierarchy and end-of-waste criteria currently being developed by the JRC. As outlined in the Textiles Roadmap, the Government is progressing the implementation of these policies, and supporting business continuity in the intervening period before EPR finance becomes available.

Work is ongoing on national transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive. A draft Textiles EPR Delivery Plan, prepared by DCEE, opened for technical stakeholder consultation on the 14 July 2026 for an 8-week period until 9 September 2026. The purpose of this draft Plan is to make clear what the changes to the EU Waste Framework Directive mean and ensure textile producers understand their new obligations and outline the actions that must be done for the effective design and go-live of a national textiles EPR scheme, required by April 2028.

Overproduction of New Textiles and Fast Fashion

Stakeholders engaged in this study emphasised the need to address the overproduction of new textiles, which undermines circularity in the textiles value chain, exerting pressure in terms of both supply and demand. The increasing proportion of low-quality, fast fashion garments reduces the value of the post-consumer textile stream and the share of items suitable for reuse, making sorting less economical and creating technical challenges for recycling. Meanwhile, the availability of cheap, new textile products reduces demand for second-hand clothing both domestically and in export markets.

Policy measures targeting product design, particularly under the EU Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), and eco-modulation of fees in the forthcoming EPR scheme, are expected to play an important role in addressing this issue. As part of the EPR framework, the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PROs) will be required to provide information to the public regarding sustainable consumption, reuse and repair, the impacts of textiles production and fast fashion.

In the interim, the continued roll-out of evidence-based public awareness initiatives, such as *'Reverse the Trend'* and *'Relove Fashion'*, will help to discourage overconsumption and

effect#:~:text=Europe%27s%20textile%20sorting%20and%20recycling,flow%20problems%20for%20sorting%20operators..

promote reuse.[118, 119] As outlined in the Textiles Roadmap, the Government is committed to advancing these policy measures, delivering targeted awareness campaigns on conscious consumption, and exploring the use of economic and other policy instruments to combat overproduction.

Separate Collection Infrastructure

There are challenges in relation to the existing infrastructure for the separate collection of textiles in Ireland. While textile banks represent a key component of this system, their operation has historically been subject to limited oversight, giving rise to issues such as contamination, illegal dumping and theft.

Under the forthcoming textiles EPR scheme, Member States will be required to ensure that separate collection infrastructure is appropriately designed and managed, including providing protection from adverse weather and contamination. In advance of EPR implementation, the Textiles Roadmap sets out the Government's commitment to strengthen the regulation, oversight and support of textile banks, alongside measures to address the associated operational challenges.

Textiles Recycling

This study estimates that approximately 3% of post-consumer textiles generated in Ireland are currently recycled. Only a limited share of this activity takes place domestically, and no direct evidence was identified of Irish post-consumer textiles being processed through fibre-to-fibre recycling, although this cannot be conclusively ruled out. Stakeholder engagement indicates that there is interest in investing in mechanical recycling infrastructure in Ireland. However, investment is currently constrained by economic and cost-related barriers. It is noted that the Textiles Roadmap proposes further research to investigate the knowledge and skills needs to achieve textiles circularity, including recycling technologies.

Prioritising Reuse

Circular fashion activities are gaining momentum in Ireland, including consumer-to-consumer resale and swaps, second-hand, vintage and charity clothes shopping, as well as upcycling and repair initiatives. Recent analysis indicates a significant increase in consumer spending on second-hand fashion in Ireland, which has almost tripled (from a low base) over the past

[118] DCEE (2026) *Reverse the trend*. Available at: Reverse the trend

[119] https://www.relovefashion.ie/

year.[120] There is an opportunity to build on this momentum to foster demand for reuse in Ireland and support circular textiles enterprises. There is also scope to better integrate the value chain with other circular models, particularly laundry and repair services that could support higher rates of reuse of soiled and defective post-consumer textile products that are otherwise managed as waste.

The Textiles Roadmap contains a range of measures to support domestic reuse. These include commitments to ensure that research on circular taxation proposed in the Circular Economy Strategy considers the textiles sector, and to undertake research on domestic markets for reuse (as well as recycling) and the associated employment potential in urban and rural areas. The proposal to introduce a pilot repair voucher, as set out in the Circular Economy Strategy, is also expected to support reuse and keeping textile products in use for longer.

Data Collection

This study has involved an extensive data collection exercise, drawing on inputs from a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders to establish a comprehensive, quantitative baseline for textiles consumption and the management of post-consumer textiles in Ireland. In doing so, it has identified a number of key challenges associated with data collection on these topics, as summarised below.

Key challenges for gathering quantitative data on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland:

- **Fragmented data sources**: Data are dispersed across a wide range of actors, including public, private and charity sector organisations, with no centralised reporting mechanism, contributing to inconsistencies and difficulties reconciling datasets.
- **Regulatory ambiguity**: Uncertainty regarding the waste/non-waste status of separately collected post-consumer textiles and the associated licensing and reporting requirements, leading to inconsistent reporting practices and data gaps.
- **E-commerce limitations**: Uncertainty regarding the extent to which e-commerce (online shopping) is captured in trade statistics, potentially resulting in underestimation of consumption levels.

[120] RTE (2026) *Spending at service stations up 9% in March – AIB*. Available at https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2026/0413/1567891-aib-spend-trend-report-for-march/.

Key challenges for gathering quantitative data on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland:

- **Challenges in mixed waste quantification**: Textiles are difficult to quantify within mixed waste streams, as they are often disposed of intermittently in bulk and tend to absorb moisture, increasing their weight and affecting measurement accuracy.
- **Misalignment with EPR scope**: Data on post-consumer textiles cannot always be readily aligned with the scope of textiles EPR (e.g., inability to exclude heavy out-of-scope items, such as carpets and duvets).
- **Capacity constraints in the charity sector**: Many organisations in the charity retail sector lack resources to consistently and accurately record volumes of inbound and outbound textiles.
- **Reliance on non-mandatory data sources**: Data availability is constrained by reliance on private sector actors not subject to mandatory reporting requirements for certain streams (e.g., digital marketplaces and retailer collection schemes).

Fragmented Data Sources

Data on textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles in Ireland are dispersed across a wide range of actors, including organisations in the public, private and charity sectors. These actors gather data on textiles using different approaches and formats, at different stages in the value chain. There is currently no centralised authority or mechanism for reporting on these aspects. This results in inconsistencies in how data is collected and reporting and challenges reconciling data for different streams and organisations.

Ambiguity Regarding the Regulatory Status of Post-consumer Textiles

Another key issue is the historical ambiguity surrounding the regulatory status of post-consumer textiles in Ireland. Collections and shipments of unsorted textiles have not been consistently classified and reported as waste. While some actors hold waste authorisations and report collections of post-consumer textiles to the authorities under relevant List of Waste (LoW) codes, others consider these textiles to be fit for reuse and, therefore, not waste.[121] These non-waste movements may sometimes appear in trade and customs data when declared under HS/TARIC code 6309 (worn clothing and other worn articles), creating

[121] In efforts to provide clarity to operators in the sector, the EPA and NTFSO have at times issued letters or statements regarding the waste/non-waste status of separately collected textiles and the associated requirement (or otherwise) for waste authorisations and reporting.

inconsistencies across datasets. In addition, textile banks located outside Local Authority civic amenity sites are not subject to waste authorisations, complicating efforts to quantify collection points and to distinguish quantities collected via this stream.

Uncertainty Regarding E-commerce

There is uncertainty regarding the extent to which e-commerce (online shopping) is captured in CSO trade statistics on imports and exports of textile products. It is understood that the current trade statistics reflect e-commerce to a certain extent but the degree of this is uncertain. This is potentially resulting in an underestimate of textiles consumption, which is noteworthy given the prevalence of online shopping for textile products.

Challenges Quantifying Textiles in Mixed Waste Streams

As highlighted by this study, post-consumer textiles are predominantly disposed of in mixed waste streams, such as kerbside bins and skips. Once textiles enter the mixed waste stream, it becomes challenging to accurately quantify them. Estimating proportions of textile waste in mixed streams is complicated by the nature of textiles, which are often disposed of intermittently in batches and tend to absorb moisture and take on weight when mixed with other wastes.

Misalignment of Data on Post-consumer Textiles with EPR Scope

Because of the detailed nature and the format of data on trade and domestic production collected by the CSO, it is possible to precisely scope the data on textiles consumption to categories of textiles products that will be subject to textiles EPR (refer to **Appendix A**). However, data on post-consumer textiles and textile waste are generally not available with the same level of granularity in terms of product type and it is usually not possible to precisely exclude out-of-scope product categories, which can be quite heavy (e.g., in the case of carpets, duvets and pillows), potentially resulting in overestimates of the quantities of post-consumer textiles that will be subject to EPR. This challenge arose particularly in relation to skip waste data, as documented in **Section 3.2.1**.

Capacity Constraints in the Charity Sector

The charity retail sector faces resource constraints that limit its ability to consistently and accurately record quantities of inbound and outbound textiles. Organisations across the sector employ different approaches to estimate quantities, reflecting differences in available infrastructure, systems and staffing. While some charities directly measure (weigh) a proportion of donations, others rely on secondary or proxy data, such as sales figures combined with conversion factors, to derive tonnage estimates. This variation introduces

inconsistencies and uncertainty in quantifying overall flows through the sector. These limitations are significant given the substantial role of the charity sector in the collection, sorting and reuse of post-consumer textiles in Ireland.

Reliance on Non-mandatory Data Sources

Data availability is further constrained by a reliance on information held by private sector actors that are not subject to mandatory reporting requirements for certain textile streams, including digital marketplaces and retailer collection schemes. In some cases, commercial sensitivities may limit willingness to share information. As a result, data gaps may arise in relation to the quantities and fates of these flows.

5 Recommendations

The previous section identified the key challenges encountered in this study in gathering complete and representative data on the consumption of textiles and the generation and management of post-consumer textiles in Ireland for the baseline year of 2023.

As discussed above, these challenges are expected to be substantially addressed through the implementation of recent and forthcoming policy developments, particularly the revisions to the Waste Framework Directive. These introduce mandatory reporting requirements for textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles under EPR and provide greater clarity regarding the waste/non-waste status of post-consumer textiles.

Notwithstanding these developments, a number of targeted recommendations are proposed to help address residual data gaps and challenges that may persist beyond the implementation of current policy measures:

- **Support participation of the charity sector in EPR reporting:** Given the significant role of the charity retail sector within Ireland's textiles value chain, targeted supports may be required to enable effective participation in data reporting. This could include support for investment in weighing equipment and/or the development of a sector-wide protocol for quantifying textile flows. Any additional reporting requirements should be designed with regard to existing capacity constraints, to avoid placing disproportionate administrative burden on the sector without corresponding support.
- **Align data collection on waste textiles with the scope of EPR:** It is recommended that waste characterisation surveys of mixed waste streams, including municipal solid waste and skip waste, distinguish in their sub-categorisation of textile waste, between product categories that fall within and outside the scope of textiles EPR. In particular,

heavier out-of-scope items, such as carpets, duvets, cushions and upholstery, should be clearly differentiated from in-scope product categories. Without this level of granularity, there is a risk that waste data may overstate the quantities of textiles relevant to EPR, thereby limiting the ability to accurately monitor scheme performance and assess progress in reducing textile waste. Improved categorisation would also support a clearer understanding of the scale and nature of bulky household textile waste, which presents distinct management challenges and may require separate policy responses.

- **Enhance understanding of textile flows outside the scope of EPR:** Continued efforts may be warranted to improve the evidence base for post-consumer textile flows that fall outside the scope of EPR reporting, including consumer-to-consumer swaps and resale via digital marketplaces. These flows are currently less visible within existing datasets but may represent a growing component of textile circulation.
- **Undertake periodic updates of the evidence base:** Repeating the NATEX study at appropriate intervals following the implementation of textiles EPR will support ongoing monitoring of trends, availability and quality of data for all post-consumer flows and fates and effectiveness of policy interventions over time.

Appendix A

Categories of Textile Products as Listed in Annex IVc of the Waste Framework Directive

Annex IVc of the Waste Framework Directive identifies product categories by Combined Nomenclature (CN) code that will fall within the scope of the EU EPR scheme for textiles. These categories cover a range of apparel, household textiles or textile-related materials and are listed in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 below.

This list is divided into two parts. Part I, presented in Table 5.1, relates to textile products and textile articles of apparel and clothing accessories intended for household use, as well as for other uses, where such products are similar in nature and composition to those for household use, and which fall within the scope of Article 22a.

Table 5.1: Part I Textile Products within the Scope of Article 22a (Annex IVc)

CN code	Description
61 – all listed codes within the chapter	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted
62 – all listed codes within the chapter	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted
6301	Blankets and travelling rugs (except 6301 10 00)
6302	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen
6303	Curtains (including drapes) and interior blinds; curtain or bed valances
6304	Other furnishing articles, excluding those of heading 9404
6309	Worn clothing and other worn articles
6504	Hats and other headgear, plaited or made by assembling strips of any material, whether or not lined or trimmed
6505	Hats and other headgear, knitted or crocheted, or made up from lace, felt or other textile fabric, in the piece (but not in strips), whether or not lined or trimmed; hairnets of any material, whether or not lined or trimmed

Part II, as presented in **Table 5.2**, refers to footwear and to articles of apparel and clothing accessories for household use as well as for other uses, where such products are similar in nature and composition to those for household use, whose main composition is not textile, that fall within the scope of Article 22a.

Table 5.2: Part II Textile Products within the Scope of Article 22a (Annex IVc)

CN code	Description
4203	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, of leather or composition leather (excl. footwear and headgear and parts thereof, and goods of chapter 95, e.g. shin guards, fencing masks)
6401	Waterproof footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or of plastics, the uppers of which are neither fixed to the sole nor assembled by stitching, riveting, nailing, screwing, plugging or similar processes
6402	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics
6404	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather
6404	Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials
6405	Other footwear

6 Appendix B

Textile List of Waste (LoW) / European Waste Catalogue (EWC) Codes within the Scope of the Study

This appendix presents the List of Waste (LoW) / European Waste Catalogue (EWC) codes used for the identification and assessment of textile waste within the scope of this study. The scope is limited to post-consumer textile waste from finished textile products, and the list of relevant LoW codes can be found in **Table 5.3**, below.

Table 5.1: LoW / EWC Codes within the Scope of the Study

Chapter	LoW Code	Description
15 Waste packaging; absorbents, wiping cloths, filter materials and protective clothing not otherwise specified	15 01 09	Textile packaging
19 Wastes from waste management facilities, off-site waste water treatment plants and the preparation of water intended for human consumption and water for industrial use	19 12 08	Textiles
20 Municipal wastes (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes) including separately collected fractions	20 01 10	Clothes
20 Municipal wastes (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes) including separately collected fractions	20 01 11	Textiles

Appendix C

List of acronyms used in report

CAS	Civic Amenity Sites
CLG	Change Clothes
CN	Combined Nomenclature
CRI	Charity Retail Ireland
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CTR	Cookstown Textile Recyclers
DCEE	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
EEA	European Environment Agency
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPOS	Electronic point-of-sale
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ESPR	Eco-Design for Sustainable Products Regulation
EU	European Union
EWC	European Waste Catalogue
GPP	Green Public Procurement
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LoW	List of Waste codes
NACE	The 'statistical classification of economic activities' in the European Community, abbreviated as **NACE**, is the classification of economic activities in the European Union (EU).
NATEX	Nature and Extent of Textiles consumption and post-consumer textiles
NTFSO	National Transfrontier Shipments Office
NWCPO	National Waste Collection Permit Office
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRODCOM	The **PRODCOM** list (derived from the French "PRODuction COMmunautaire") is a

	list of industrial products and services in the areas of mining, manufacturing, and materials recovery (sections B, C and E of the Standard Industrial Classification).
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SRF	Solid Recovered Fuel
SVP	St. Vincent de Paul Society Ireland
TAG	Textiles Advisory Group
TFS	Transfrontier shipments of waste office
TRI	Textile Recycling International
UAE	United Arab Emirates