

FOOD WASTE REPORTING

Public Methodology Statement

The methodology outlined below has been used to calculate the total tonnes of food waste as a percentage of total food sales in our UK and in our RoI operations for the year ended 31 December 2017. The information provided is in conformance with the Food Loss and Waste Accounting Standard (FLW Standard)

Scope

- Our definition of food waste is based on that of EU FUSIONS¹, therefore packaging, and food donated to charitable organisations is excluded.
- The scope of this calculation covers food waste arising only from our direct operations (stores and regional distribution centres) in the UK and in the RoI.
- Non-food products, including pet food, are excluded.

Data Sources

- Store and regional distribution centre (RDC) waste: This data contains the number of product units and the total value (£) of waste per product. This includes:
 - Damaged food products that cannot be sold.
 - Products that exceeded the 'Best before' or 'Use by' date.
 - Products that are not suitable for sale for another reason, i.e. quality issues.
- Product weight data: This dataset contains the contents weight of product units and does not include the packaging weight. Where product unit weight is not available in the dataset, an average weight based on the food category has been used.
- External charity partner donation data: This dataset contains data provided by charity partners on food donations received.

Methodology

1. The number of units of waste per product is converted into a weight measured in tonnes by multiplying the number of units of waste by the per unit weight either as recorded in the dataset where available or by applying a category average weight as explained above².
2. The total wastage tonnage for each product is then added to other total product wastage tonnages to obtain a total wastage tonnage for each food category³.

3. Category waste tonnages are added to obtain a total waste tonnage for our entire UK and RoI operations.

For any products in the UK and RoI respectively for which a weight was not available in the dataset, the following steps are taken to select the best estimate for product weight

1. Using product weight data available, an average product weight is calculated for each category. The category average weight is calculated based on the average weight of waste products in a particular category that have a weight recorded in the dataset. We believe this approach provides a more meaningful average than also including products in a particular category that have not been wasted during the year.
2. The number of units of waste of the product where product weight is not available in the data set is multiplied by the average category weight to obtain a total waste tonnage for the product.
3. This data is added into the category total.

We use information provided by our charity partners about the weight of food donations we have made to them and subtract this donated tonnage from our gross food waste figure as these items are donated for human consumption.

Food waste compared to our sales

Our overall percentage figure of food waste in the context of our food sales compares our food waste weight and food sales weight. The sales weight is measured using the same method for food waste: the number of units sold is multiplied by the same per unit weight used in the calculation described above.

Footnotes:

¹"Food waste is any food, and inedible parts of food, removed from the food supply chain to be recovered or disposed (including composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bio-energy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea)".

²It is assumed that 1L is equivalent to 1kg where product content weights are listed as volumes.



³Food categories included within categories are: Beer; Biscuits; Canned Foods; Central Bakery & Cakes; Chilled Foods; Chocolate; Coffee & Hot Beverages; Confectionery; Convenience Food & Soups; Crisps, Snacks & Nuts; Dressings, Oils & Sauces; Eggs; Fresh Fish; Fresh Meat; Frozen Food; Fruits & Vegetables; Long Life Dairy; Long Life Meats; Preserves & Spreads; Processed Food; Seasonal Confectionery; Soft Drinks & Juices, Sparkling Wine; Tea; and Wine.

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