



Industry briefing

UK e-waste data trends 2018-2025

A look back at 2018-2025 WEEE data

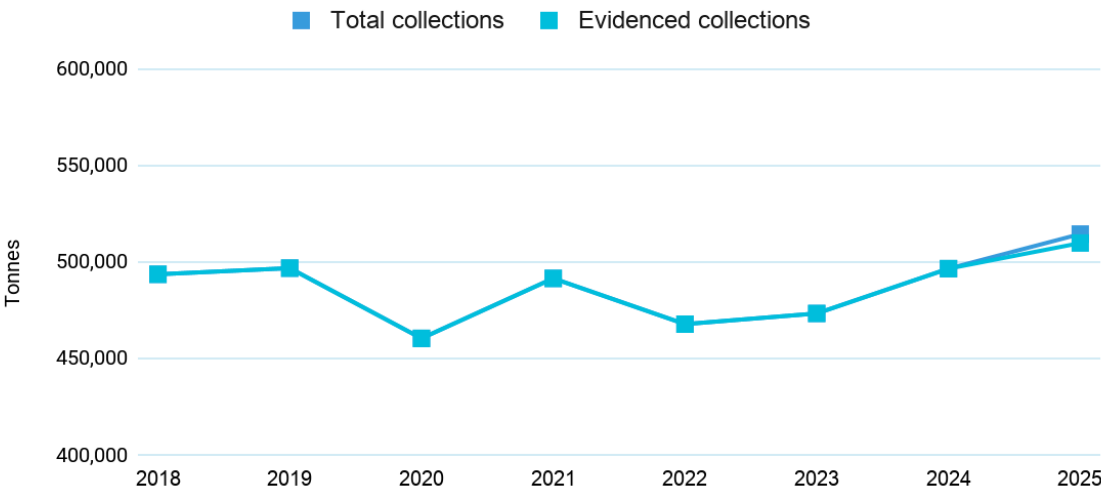
April 2026



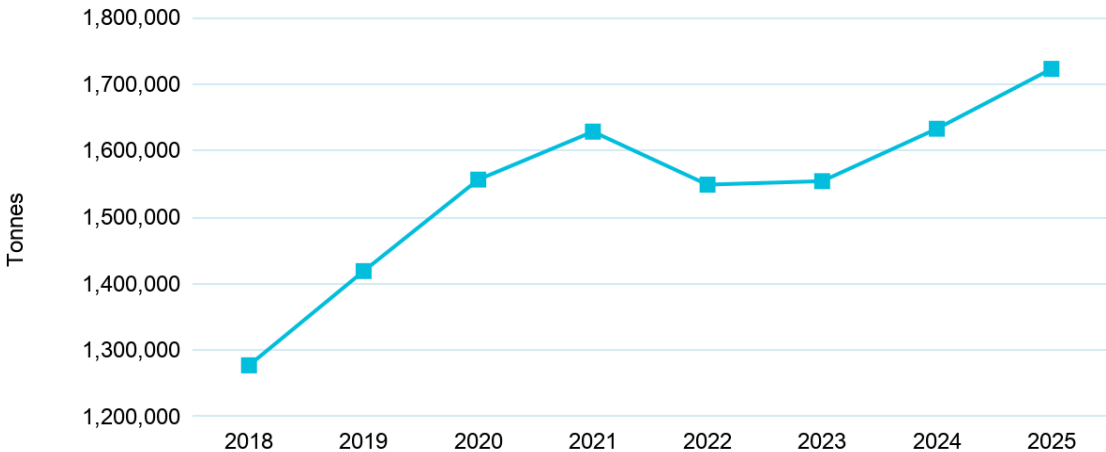
WEEE data summary 2025

This briefing reviews year on year changes in electricals' recycling collection data, and sales from 2018-2025, including trends by type of electrical.

- Recycling of household electricals reached the highest level in the last 8 years in 2025
- However, recycling targets were missed for the first time since 2022 (even when including additional tonnages provided by DEFRA from non-evidenced recycling in 2025)



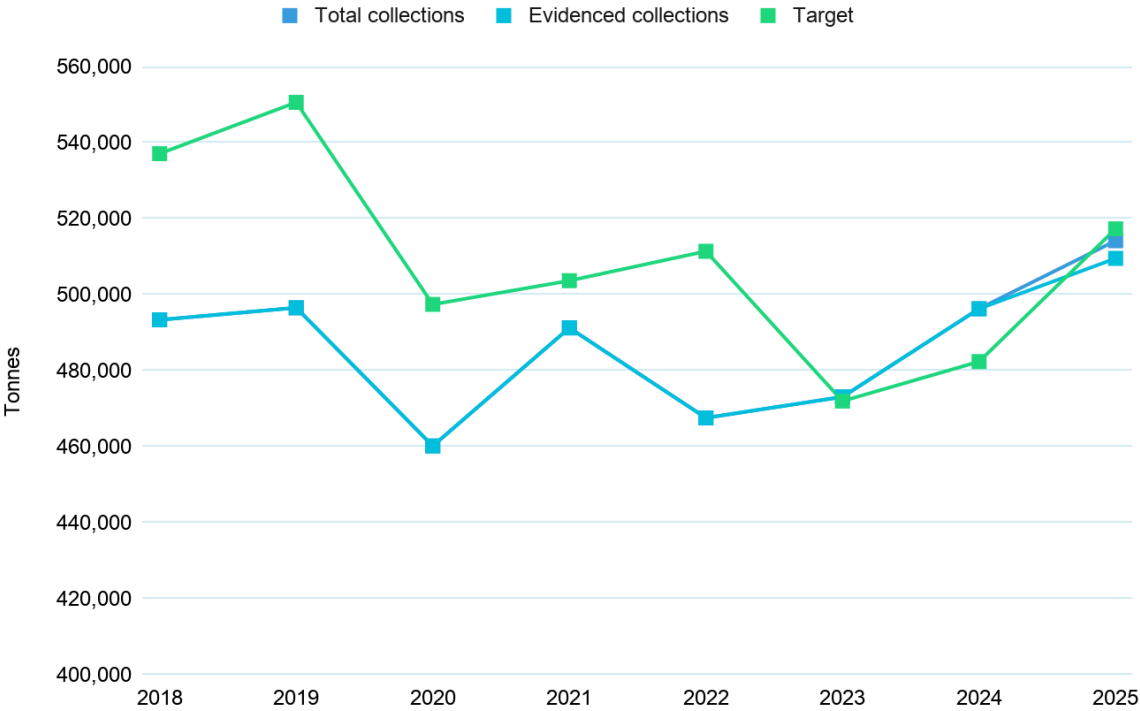
- Household electricals placed on the UK market have continued to increase and reached the highest recorded level in 2025



Waste electricals collections 2018-2025

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 collected versus targets						
Year	Collected (tonnes)	Target (tonnes)	Difference (tonnes)	Performance (%)	Year increase (tonnes)	Year increase (%)
2018	493,323	537,065	-43,742	91.86%		
2019	496,514	550,577	-54,063	90.18%	+3,191	+0.65%
2020	460,134	497,388	-37,254	92.51%	-36,380	-7.33%
2021	491,213	503,629	-12,416	97.53%	+31,079	+6.75%
2022	467,517	511,377	-43,860	91.42%	-23,696	-4.82%
2023	473,047	471,942	+1,105	100.23%	+5,531	+1.18%
2024	496,253	482,335	+13,918	102.89%	+23,205	+4.91%
2025	509,501	517,285	-7,784	98.50%	+13,248	+2.67%
2025*	514,164	517,285	-3,121	99.40%	+17,911	+3.61%

*Corrected 2025 collections data from DEFRA including non-evidenced tonnages collected by a treatment site that lost its permit.



WEEE Data: 2018-2025 collected by category

Category (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025*
01. Large household appliances	169,577	175,236	186,368	182,646	164,250	159,276	167,316	175,200	176,273
02. Small household appliances	38,046	35,542	27,938	31,386	32,759	33,587	35,692	36,907	37,870
03. IT & telecommunications equipment	45,013	44,798	31,974	36,681	37,119	39,613	40,408	40,010	40,864
04. Consumer equipment	36,529	36,034	19,557	20,917	20,450	20,950	22,527	22,488	23,088
05. Lighting equipment	0	582	4,483	5,253	5,133	5,535	6,075	6,244	6,407
06. Electrical and electronic tools	17,901	17,838	20,147	22,741	22,953	25,322	27,392	27,668	28,436
07. Toys, leisure and sports equipment	2,194	2,283	3,968	4,542	4,621	5,036	5,903	6,203	6,355
08. Medical devices	6	3	13	11	11	27	50	45	45
09. Monitoring and control instruments	146	156	969	1,105	1,079	1,138	1,251	1,226	1,257
10. Automatic dispensers	0	0	0	0	7	3	10	33	33
11. Display equipment	47,066	44,615	36,029	39,707	40,428	42,980	47,107	46,265	46,307
12. Appliances containing refrigerants	131,939	134,811	125,005	141,947	134,274	135,073	138,038	142,090	142,102
13. Gas discharge lamps & LED light sources	4,819	4,553	3,445	4,024	4,051	4,049	4,055	3,450	3,450
14. Photovoltaic panels	87	65	236	254	382	460	428	1,670	1,677
Total	493,323	496,514	460,134	491,213	467,517	473,047	496,253	509,501	514,164

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 collected by type

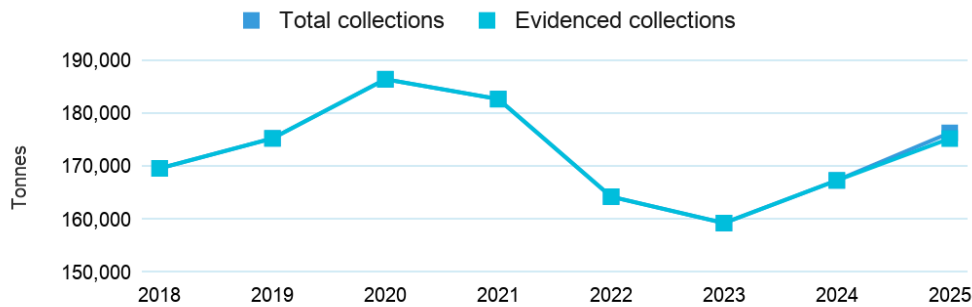
Type (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025*
A. Large household appliances	169,577	175,236	186,368	182,646	164,250	159,276	167,316	175,200	176,273
B. Cooling appliances	131,939	134,811	125,005	141,947	134,274	135,073	138,038	142,090	142,102
C. Display equipment	47,066	44,615	36,029	39,707	40,428	42,980	47,107	46,265	46,307
D. Lamps	4,819	4,553	3,445	4,024	4,051	4,049	4,055	3,450	3,450
E. Small mixed WEEE	139,835	137,235	109,050	122,635	124,131	131,210	139,308	140,825	144,355
F. Photovoltaics	87	65	236	254	382	460	428	1,670	1,677
Total	493,323	496,514	460,134	491,213	467,517	473,047	496,253	509,501	514,164

*Corrected 2025 collections data from DEFRA, including non-evidenced tonnages collected by a treatment site that lost its permit.

Trends by product type

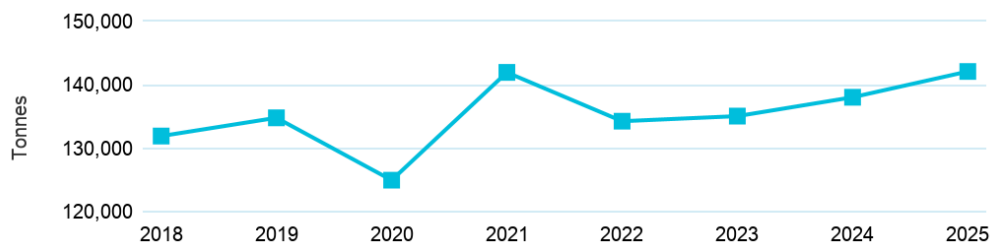
Large household appliances

- Large household appliances collections have continued to rise since 2023 and reached the highest level in 4 years in 2025
- Evidenced collections have seen an overall **increase of 3% between 2018 and 2025** from 169,577 tonnes to 175,200 tonnes
- Total collections have **increased by 4% between 2018 and 2025** from 169,577 tonnes to 176,273 tonnes
- Collections peaked in 2020, with 186,368 tonnes collected



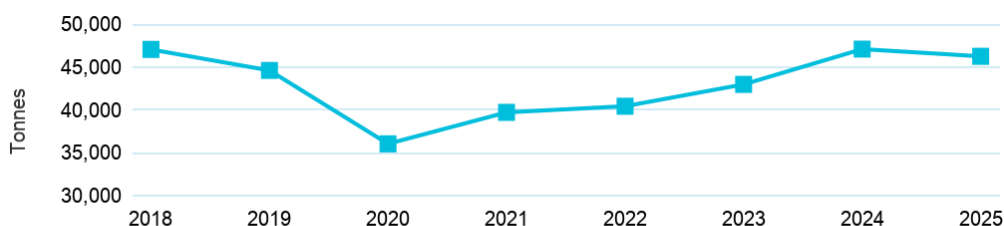
Cooling appliances

- Collections of cooling appliances have continued to rise since 2022 and reached their highest level in 2025
- Collections have seen an overall **increase of 8% between 2018 and 2025** from 131,939 tonnes to 142,090 evidenced tonnes or 142,102 total tonnes (including non-evidenced collections)



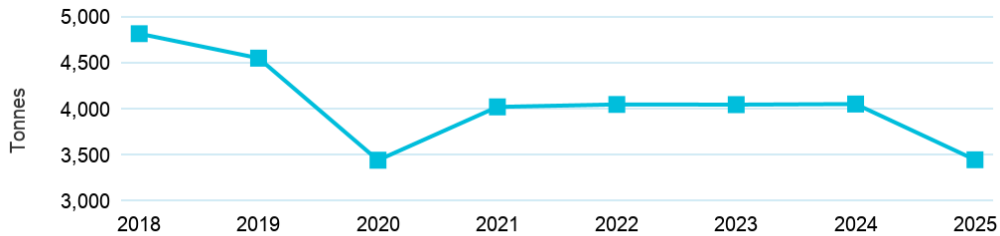
Display equipment

- Following a drop in collections of display equipment in 2020, there has been a steady gradual increase in collections returning to pre 2020 levels
- Collections peaked in 2024 at 47,107 tonnes with a small decrease in 2025
- Collections have seen an overall **decrease of 2% between 2018 and 2025** from 47,066 tonnes to 46,265 evidenced tonnes or 46,307 total tonnes (including non-evidenced collections)



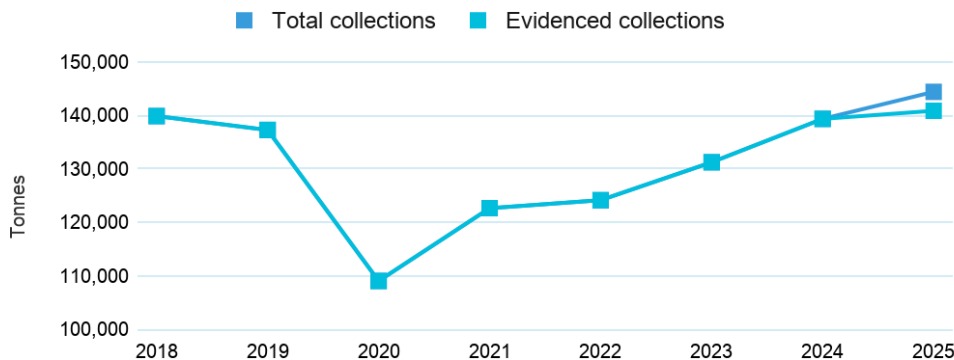
Lamps

- Lamp collections were steady between 2021 and 2024, with 2025 seeing a decrease to around 2020 levels
- No non-evidenced tonnages have affected lamps collections
- Collections have **decreased by 28% between 2018 and 2025** from 4,819 tonnes to 3,450 tonnes



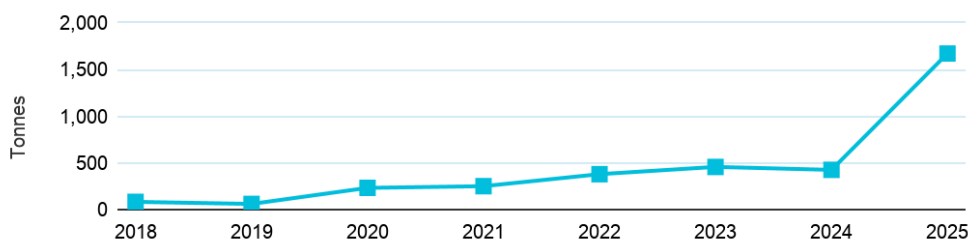
Small mixed WEEE (small electricals)

- Small electricals collections have continued to rise, reaching their highest level in the past 8 years in 2025
- Evidenced collections have seen an overall **increase of 1% between 2018 and 2025** from 139,835 tonnes to 140,825 tonnes
- Total collections have seen an overall **increase of 3% between 2018 and 2025** from 139,835 tonnes to 144,355 tonnes



Photovoltaics (solar panels)

- Collections of solar panels increased dramatically in 2025 following gradual growth
- Evidenced collections have seen an overall **increase of 1,822% between 2018 and 2025** from 87 tonnes to 1,670 tonnes
- Total collections have **increased by 1,829% between 2018 and 2025** from 87 tonnes to 1,677 tonnes
- Solar panels which were placed on the market in increasing numbers are now starting to reach end of life which may explain the increase



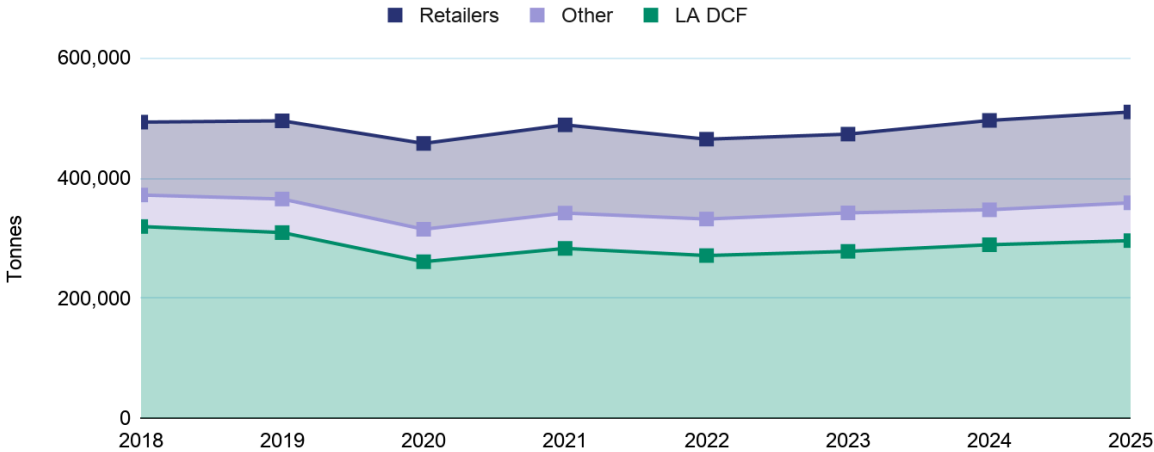
Collection methods 2018-2025

- Collection method share has remained fairly steady since 2018, with over half of waste electricals collected by local authority sites
- Since 2022, increased overall collections have been reflected equally across the different collection methods, remaining between 58-59% from local authority collection facilities, between 28-30% from retailers, and between 12-14% from other collection sources
- These 2025 figures for each collection method do not include non-evidenced collections for this year

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	319,427	309,360	260,850	282,997	271,089	278,058	289,053	295,963
Retailers	121,264	130,148	142,785	146,748	132,869	131,028	148,626	151,141
Other	52,404	55,799	54,016	58,784	60,754	64,035	58,229	62,897
Total	493,323	496,514	460,134	491,213	467,517	473,047	496,253	509,501

Note: The sum of the collection methods for each year does not equal the total collections for the year. This is partly due to instances of higher collections reported by producer compliance schemes than deliveries reported to treatment facilities and exporters, which occur because certain collections are bulked up prior to delivery.

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 collected by collection method								
Collection method (%)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	64.78%	62.46%	57.00%	57.93%	58.33%	58.77%	58.29%	58.03%
Retailers	24.59%	26.28%	31.20%	30.04%	28.59%	27.69%	29.97%	29.64%
Other	10.63%	11.27%	11.80%	12.03%	13.07%	13.53%	11.74%	12.33%



Collection methods by product type

Large household appliances

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 large household appliances collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	78,754	74,809	69,881	71,730	62,772	59,437	58,937	60,859
Retailers	79,784	85,332	93,026	94,329	86,132	83,907	93,756	95,608
Other	11,039	14,661	22,104	14,987	14,104	16,022	14,625	18,734
Total	167,577	175,236	186,368	182,646	164,250	159,276	167,316	175,200

Cooling appliances

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 cooling appliances collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	85,251	83,648	68,796	79,952	77,526	78,021	78,436	78,232
Retailers	38,196	40,948	46,442	48,678	42,135	41,819	47,683	49,125
Other	8,481	9,609	8,946	12,569	13,464	15,141	11,922	14,734
Total	131,939	134,811	125,005	141,947	134,274	135,073	138,038	142,090

Display equipment

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 display equipment collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	41,080	37,919	31,709	33,081	32,693	35,447	39,180	38,773
Retailers	1,218	1,395	1,315	1,514	1,980	2,147	2,634	2,694
Other	4,767	5,300	2,934	4,995	5,528	5,394	4,960	4,798
Total	54,199	47,066	44,615	36,029	39,707	40,428	42,980	47,107

Lamps

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 lamps collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	1,043	945	704	898	945	881	907	793
Retailers	258	250	171	242	232	231	626	495
Other	3,518	3,358	2,570	2,884	2,874	2,933	2,519	2,162
Total	4,819	4,553	3,445	4,024	4,051	4,049	4,055	3,450

Small mixed WEEE (small electricals)

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 small electricals collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	113,292	112,028	89,592	97,138	97,008	104,071	111,365	116,997
Retailers	1,737	2,210	1,809	1,982	2,381	2,896	3,922	3,212
Other	24,590	22,829	17,420	23,295	24,606	24,316	24,006	21,116
Total	139,835	137,235	109,050	122,635	124,131	131,210	139,308	140,825

Photovoltaics (solar panels)

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 photovoltaics collected by collection method								
Collection method (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Local authority	7	11	170	197	195	202	227	311
Retailers	71	13	23	3	10	29	5	8
Other	9	41	42	54	178	229	197	1,353
Total	87	65	236	254	382	460	428	1,670

Electricals placed on the market 2018-2025

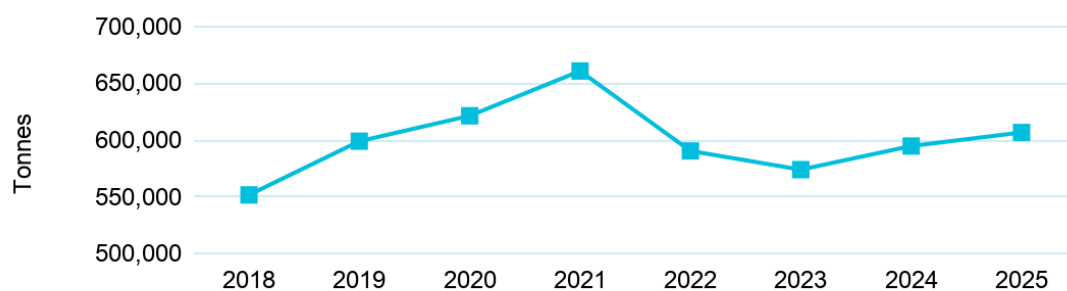
WEEE Data: 2018-2025 household EEE placed on the UK market								
Category (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
01. Large household appliances	551,610	598,953	621,383	660,842	590,392	573,901	594,744	606,699
02. Small household appliances	150,108	160,009	177,274	187,861	178,186	199,570	220,953	222,161
03. IT & telecommunications equipment	82,369	78,357	84,008	82,561	71,387	63,010	63,733	66,208
04. Consumer equipment	42,419	38,433	41,938	35,065	34,544	29,193	30,337	33,455
05. Lighting equipment	56	55,749	63,072	67,180	68,043	64,527	61,106	76,351
06. Electrical and electronic tools	69,823	68,949	78,382	89,059	69,386	70,224	79,628	90,030
07. Toys, leisure and sports equipment	51,868	54,098	72,538	75,642	58,627	56,745	65,102	74,136
08. Medical devices	3,060	3,687	4,361	4,753	4,094	3,071	2,769	3,632
09. Monitoring and control instruments	11,953	20,368	18,766	24,333	25,557	25,836	23,224	26,284
10. Automatic dispensers	44	79	120	372	267	236	291	420
11. Display equipment	82,075	86,814	106,157	98,017	97,161	83,490	85,960	85,603
12. Appliances containing refrigerants	204,311	213,954	245,575	251,997	218,160	213,429	222,806	242,877
13. Gas discharge lamps & LED light sources	8,237	8,412	6,585	7,290	5,931	5,397	4,474	4,748
14. Photovoltaics	19,210	30,983	36,204	43,504	127,054	165,441	177,687	189,007
15. Vapes and electronic cigarettes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,138
Total	1,277,143	1,418,847	1,556,361	1,628,478	1,548,789	1,554,069	1,632,814	1,722,750

WEEE Data: 2018-2025 household EEE placed on the UK market								
Type (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A. Large household appliances	551,610	598,953	621,383	660,842	590,392	573,901	594,744	606,699
B. Cooling appliances	204,311	213,954	245,575	251,997	218,160	213,429	222,806	242,877
C. Display equipment	82,075	86,814	106,157	98,017	97,161	83,490	85,960	85,603
D. Lamps	8,237	8,412	6,585	7,290	5,931	5,397	4,474	4,748
E. Small mixed EEE	411,700	479,728	540,458	566,827	510,092	512,411	547,143	592,677
F. Photovoltaics	19,210	30,983	36,204	43,504	127,054	165,441	177,687	189,007
Vapes and electronic cigarettes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,138
Total	1,277,143	1,418,847	1,556,361	1,628,478	1,548,789	1,554,069	1,632,814	1,722,750

Trends by product type

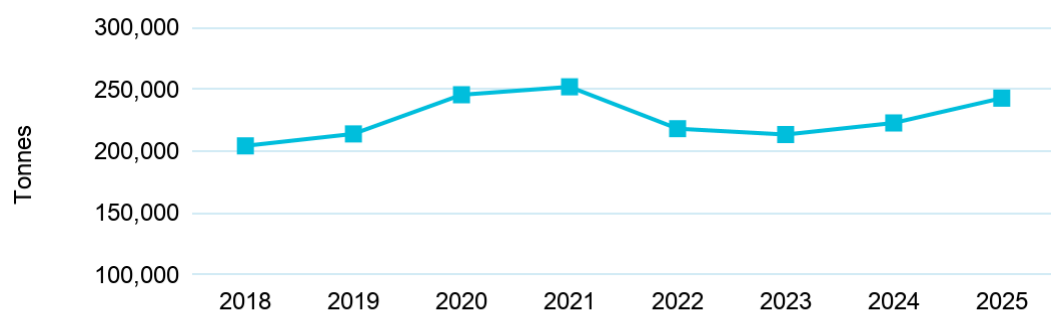
Large household appliances

- Large household appliance sales have risen by **10% between 2018 and 2025**, from 551,610 tonnes to 606,699 tonnes
- Sales peaked in 2021 at 660,842 tonnes (a 20% increase from 2018)
- Following a drop in 2022 and 2023, large household appliance sales have continued to increase gradually over the past couple of years



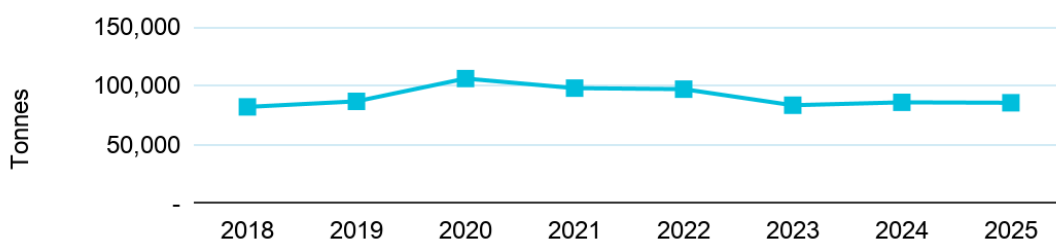
Cooling appliances

- Cooling appliances sales have remained fairly steady between 2018 and 2025
- After decreases in 2022 and 2023, sales have risen gradually and returned to almost 2021 levels (251,997 tonnes) with 242,877 tonnes put on the market in 2025
- This marks an overall increase in sales of **19% between 2018 and 2025**



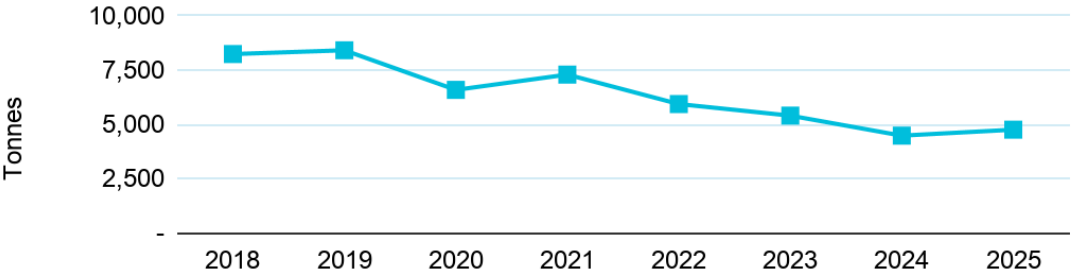
Display equipment

- Sales of display equipment have also remained steady within this time period, with their lowest level at 82,075 tonnes in 2018 and their highest at 106,157 tonnes in 2020
- With the exception of 2024, there has been a small decrease in sales each year since 2020
- Overall, there has been an increase in sales of **4% between 2018 and 2025**



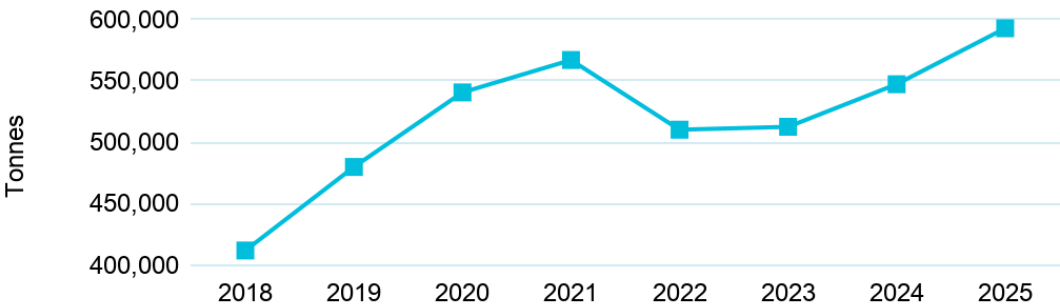
Lamps

- Lamps sales have followed a downward trend over the past few years, but saw a slight increase in 2025, up by 275 tonnes (6%) from last year
- There has been an overall decrease in sales of **42% between 2018 and 2025**, from 8,237 tonnes to 4,748 tonnes



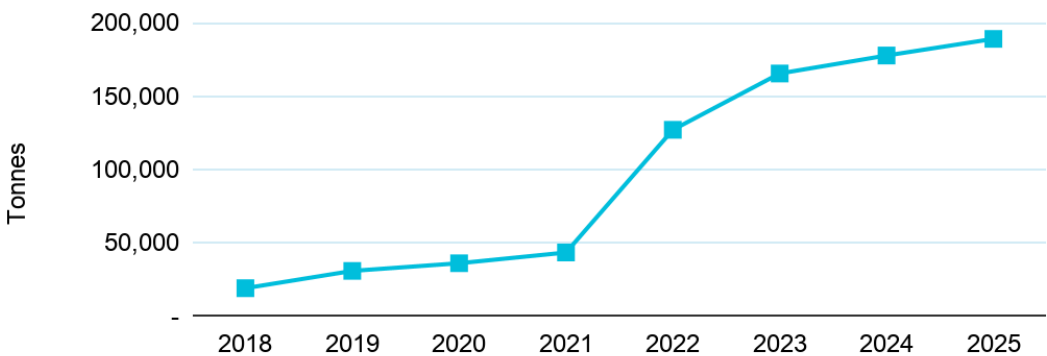
Small electricals

- Following a drop in sales of small electricals in 2022, sales have continued to rise and exceeded 2021 levels in 2025
- This reflects the general upward trend since 2018, with an overall increase in sales of **44% between 2018 and 2025**, from 411,700 tonnes to 592,677 tonnes



Photovoltaics

- Solar panels sales have seen the most dramatic increase, with an overall increase of **884% between 2018 and 2025**
- Following a steep increase of 192% between 2021 and 2022, solar panels sales have continued to rise and reached their highest level in 2025 at 189,007 tonnes



Vapes

- Vape producers have reported the sale of vapes separately under a new vapes category since 15th August 2025
- Therefore, the 2025 figure of 1,137 tonnes of vapes placed on the UK market only includes vapes reported in the last few months of the year
- Scaled up to a full year of reporting, **vape sales in 2025 would be an estimated 2,988 tonnes**

Methodology

All calculations use the national data sets for WEEE collected in the UK and EEE placed on the UK market which can be found [here](#). 2025 figures including non-evidenced recycling were shared by DEFRA and referenced [here](#).

WEEE collection targets from 2018-2025 can be found below:

- [2018](#)
- [2019](#)
- [2020](#)
- [2021](#)
- [2022](#)
- [2023](#)
- [2024](#)
- [2025](#)

Material Focus is an independent, not-for-profit organisation on a mission to stop valuable, critical and finite materials inside electricals from going to waste.

Insights

We identify, produce and share insights to improve the UK e-waste system and inform policy decisions.

Investments

We identify and fund projects that make it easier to reuse and recycle; or that encourage circular design.

Inspiration

We inspire, educate and encourage the UK public to fix, donate, sell and recycle their unwanted electricals through our Recycle Your Electricals campaign.