

TEXTILE TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Collection and distribution of textiles in 2020



Humana Sweden

1 Collected textiles in 2020

Humana Sweden reported that 2 380 tonnes of used textiles were collected in 2020. The total amount sold and sent to sorting centres in 2020 was 2 101 tonnes. The difference between collected and sold is explained by the storage balance. Overall, this is a small reduction compared to 2019.

Before export, 209 tonnes of waste were removed from the collected amounts. This waste consists of a mix of textile waste, non-textile waste, electric waste, and small items for reuse (e.g., toys). The waste is handled by a waste management company and not included in the results in this report.

Sorting centres that received less than 100 tonnes in the collection period (2020) were not required to report on these amounts. The table below shows that Mepex has received reporting forms covering 89.5 % of the textiles collected, which forms the basis for this report.

Table 1 – Overview of the flow of used textiles from Humana Sweden, and reported amounts received at sorting centres - 2020

	Reported amounts sent from Humana Sweden (tonnes)	Unreported amounts from sorting centres (tonnes)
< 100 tonnes (not required to report)	257	220 (11.7 %)
> 100 tonnes	1 845	0 (0 %)
Total	2 101	220 (11,7 %)

Reporting forms were received from all (6) sorting centres (or suppliers of used textiles) used by Humana Sweden in 2020. The sorting centres receiving textiles from Humana Sweden are listed in the table below.

Table 2 – Sorting centres receiving textiles from Humana Sweden in 2020

Sorting centre	Country	Short name used in figures
Amor	Poland	Amor
One World Clothes Trade Bulgaria	Bulgaria	OWCT Bulgaria
Humana LT	Lithuania	HPP Lithuania
HPP Slovakia s.r.o.	Slovakia	HPP Slovakia
Tiburon	Poland	Tiburon
Humana Sorteerimiskeskus OÕg	Estonia	HPP Estonia

The reports received from the sorting centres are mostly satisfactory, however there are uncertainties in a few areas. These are mostly regarding:

1. The amount of textile waste that arises during sorting,
2. Which treatment methods the waste is sent to, and
3. The distribution between clothes sold for re-use, and clothes for material recycling by some customers.

The uncertainties that have not been revealed during the reporting period represent very marginal amounts.

Figure 1 shows where collected textiles by Humana Sweden are sent for sorting. The figure shows that the textiles from Sweden primarily are sent to sorting centres in Lithuania and Slovakia. As seen in the figure, 64% of the textiles are sorted by HPP Lithuania and HPP Slovakia. The overall results are therefore to a large extent influenced by where these two companies send their sorted textiles.

Figure 2 shows the share of Swedish textiles sorted at the sorting centres that has reported for 2020. The figure shows that Swedish textiles constitute most of the incoming textiles at Amor and Tiburon, hence the results from these sorting centres will give a good representation of the qualities of textiles collected in Sweden. However, collectively they did only receive 227 tons of textiles from Sweden

At the remaining sorting centres, textiles collected by Humana Sweden only represent a small share of the total amount of incoming textiles. The results from these sorting centres will therefore largely represent textiles collected in other countries and will to a lesser extent represent the true qualities of the textiles collected in Sweden.

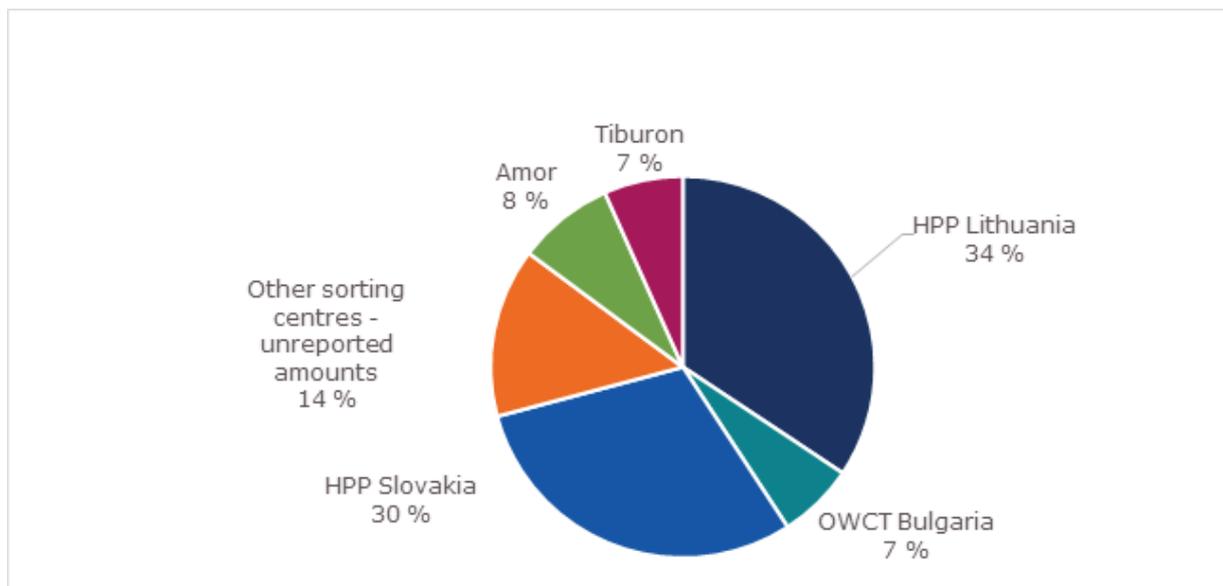


Figure 1 - Distribution of textiles sent to sorting centres – 2020

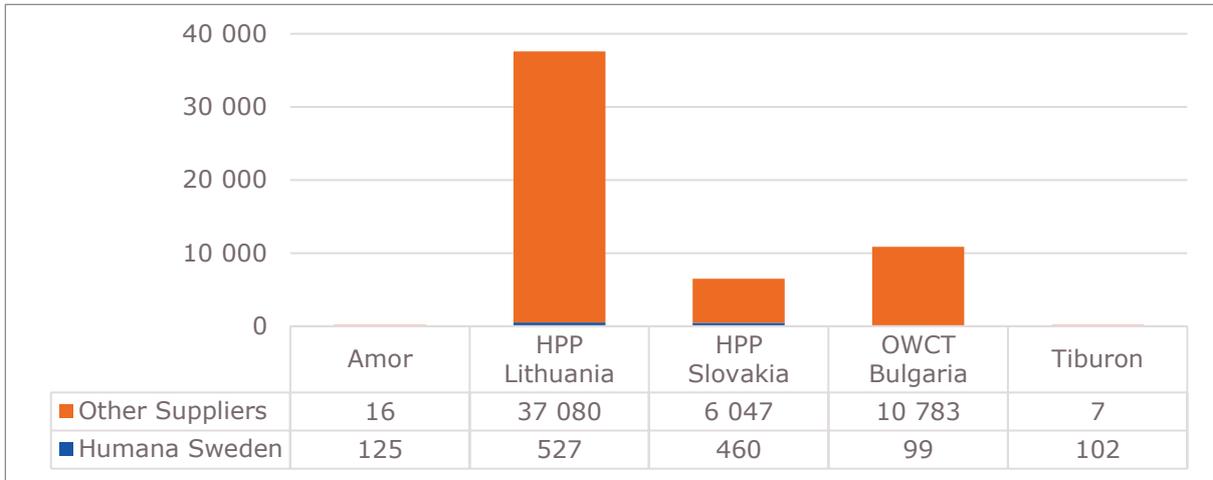


Figure 2– Share of textiles reported received from Humana Sweden at sorting centres – 2020¹.

2 Results from the collection of textiles by Humana Sweden

The sorting centres do not have specific information on the sales/distribution of textiles collected by Humana Sweden as the textiles are mixed with textiles collected by other collection organisations. This is done to achieve a desired quality of the sorted textiles as the quality of collected textiles varies between countries.

Although we know it is not the case, we assume the distribution patterns are the same for all collected textiles. The results are calculated based on a weighted average of the amount of textiles received from Humana Sweden at each sorting centre.

In the reporting for 2020, the reporting form was updated with the aim of improving the understanding of the composition of the received textiles and how different qualities are handled. To this end, the reporting included more details than previous years.

The category re-wear, which had two subcategories was renamed to reuse, which is divided into four categories: clothes, shoes, accessories (e.g., belts and hats) and other textiles (e.g., bed linen, towels and similar). The sorting centres were also asked to provide information on the qualities sold to different regions.

Figure 3 – Distribution of collected textiles and waste - 2020 shows the collective distribution of textiles, textile waste and other waste from the sorting centres that receive used textiles from Humana Sweden. The figure shows that textiles collected by Humana Sweden are mainly sold for reuse or material recycling. Roughly 84 % of the reuse segment consists of clothing.

¹ The amounts received could differ from the amounts sent from Humana Sweden, depending on if the sorting centre reports on received or invoiced amounts.

A comparison between the results from 2017-2020 is shown in Figure 4. The figure shows that the amount of textiles categorized as going to reuse is significantly reduced in 2020 compared to 2019, while the share of material recycling is increased by almost a similar amount.

The reports give no clear explanation for the lower share of reuse in 2020 compared to the previous year and this can have several reasons. We have set up some possible elements that can have affected the results:

- The average quality of used textiles in the market can have been reduced due to increased collection rate and lower quality textiles.
- The markets for second-hand textiles have a negative development, partly because the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has affected the market balance.
- The more detailed reporting and stricter definitions applied in this year's reporting might also have clarified the distinction between reuse and material recycling.

The share of quality of the textiles received by each sorting centre is only to a small extent affected by the textiles received from Humana Sweden, and hence the share of textiles going to reuse might not be representative for the quality of textiles from Humana Sweden.

The sorting centres were given the option of providing information on the type of material recycling. Limited feedback was received, and the responses indicated that the information on the type of material recycling used is limited. It is anticipated that information quality would benefit from better definitions.

Figure 3 shows that approximately 12 % of the material received at the sorting centres is waste that is not suitable for reuse or material recycling. This waste is sent to incineration with energy recovery (ca. 84 %), or other treatment with very little sent to landfill (ca. 16 %).²

² The amount of waste removed from the collected items in Sweden before transport to the sorting centres is excluded from the results. This waste is a mix of textile waste and non-textile items and is excluded because the shares are unknown.

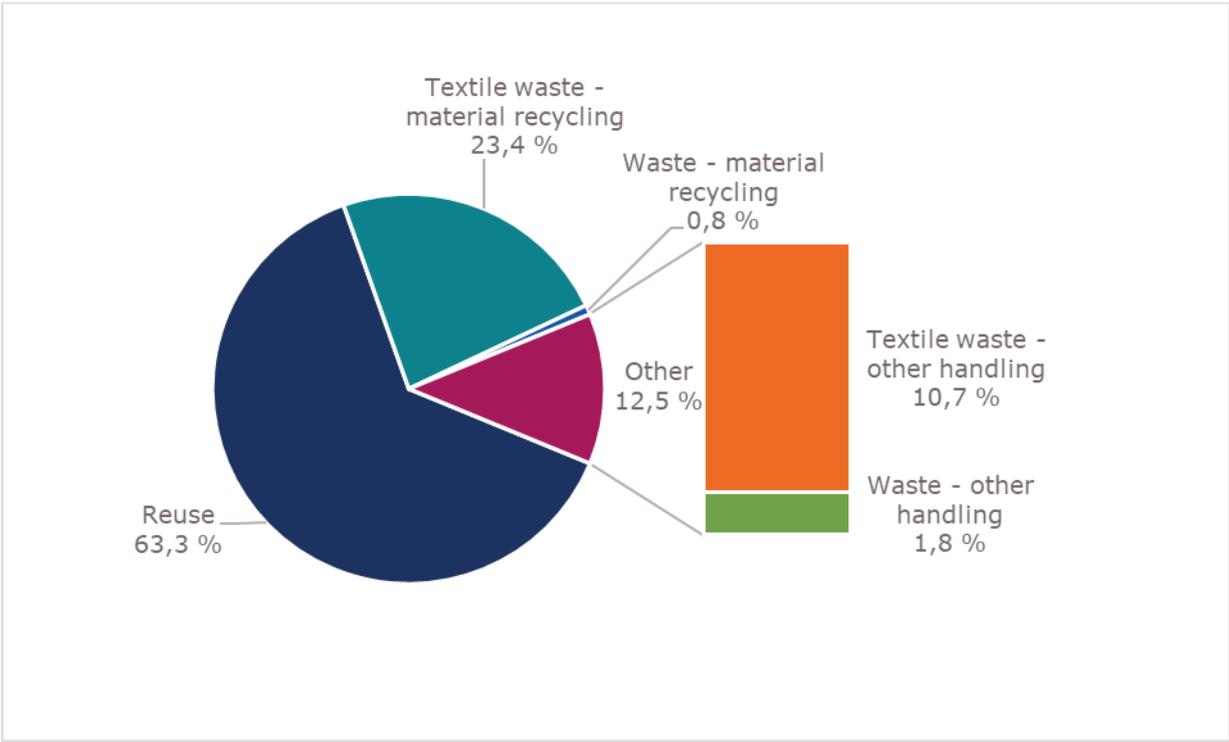


Figure 3 – Distribution of collected textiles and waste - 2020

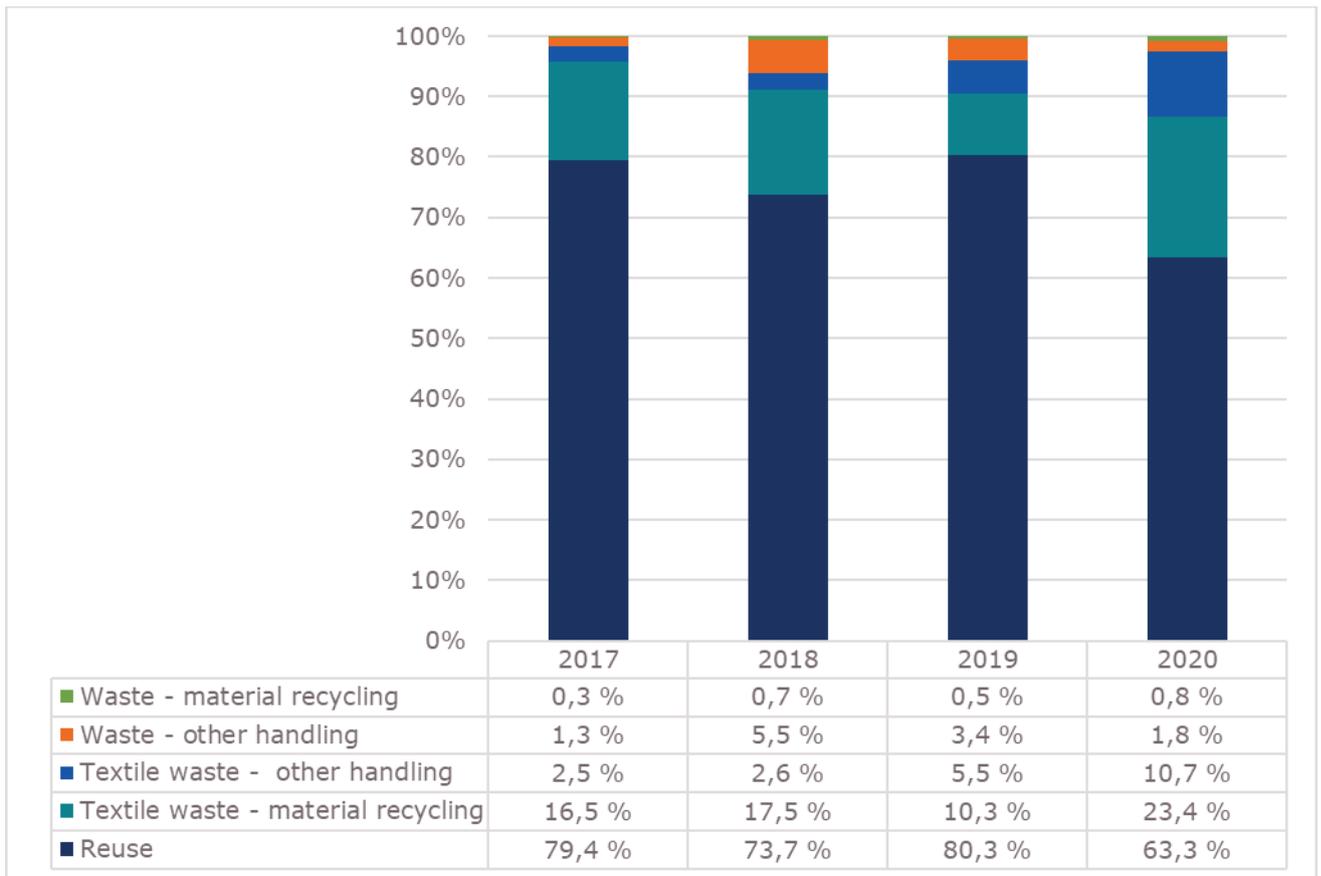


Figure 4 – Comparison between the composition of collected textiles from 2016-2020.

The distribution of sorted textiles and waste (originally collected by Humana Sweden) is displayed in the figure below. The distribution between the different regions is quite similar to the previous year, with Europe being the region that receives the largest amount of the textiles, followed by Africa.

There are differences between the regions in terms of what qualities are sent where. The best qualities (Trend, Shop A, Shop B) end up in Europe, along with the waste (both textile and other), while items for recycling constitutes a large part of the amounts sent to Asia. Two of the centres did not disclose any information with regards to the quality.

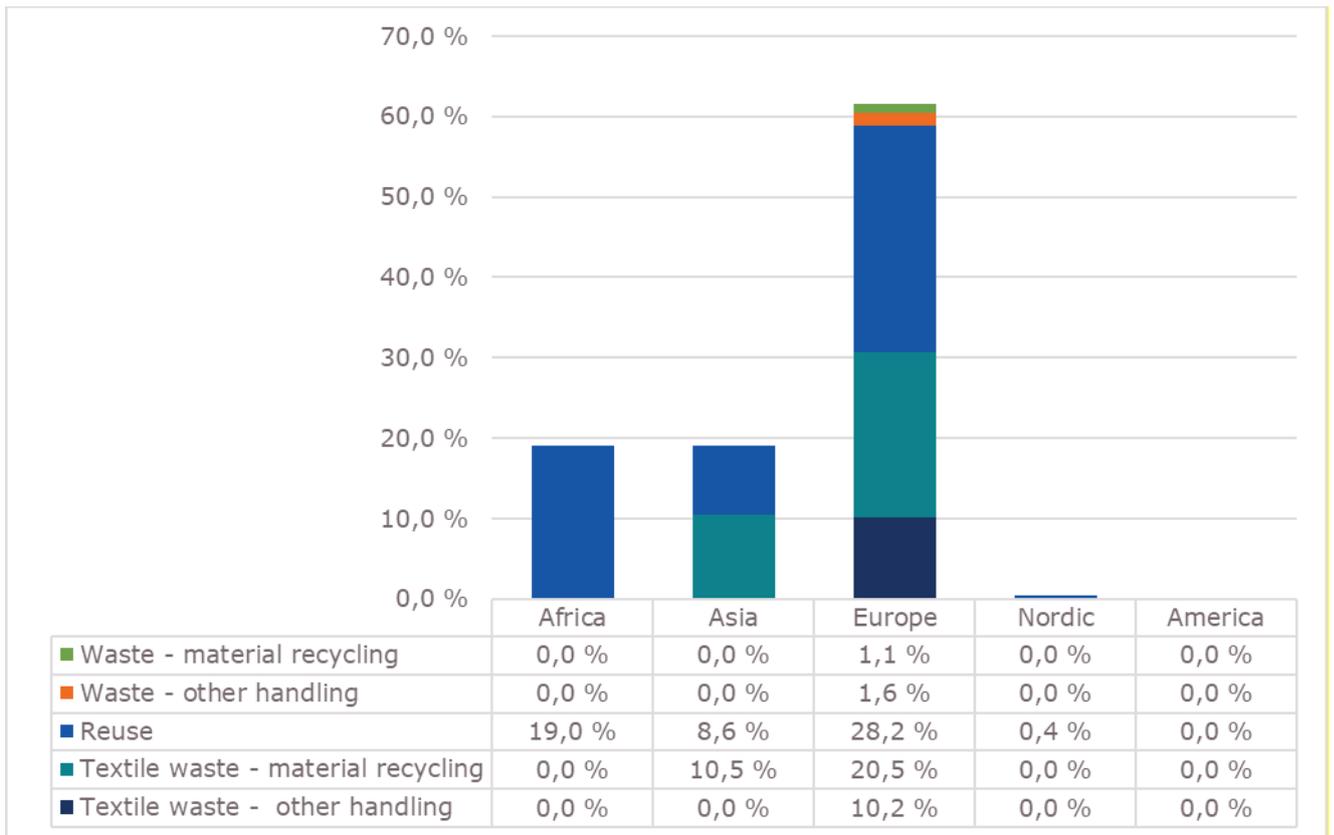


Figure 5 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste – 2020